

UniSA News

May 2006

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



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Protecting the child

by Rebecca Gill

As it reaches its one year milestone, the Australian Centre for Child Protection at UniSA has undergone rapid development, emerging at the forefront of child protection research.

Now with a dozen staff and PhD students, some located interstate, the Centre has a strong agenda, says Director Professor Dorothy Scott.

"Through close collaboration with government and community organisations, our role is to help translate research and evaluation into successful policy and practice," Prof Scott said.

"Child abuse and neglect in Australia is a complex problem that needs a holistic and comprehensive response. Among the key priorities are parental alcohol and drug dependency and how child welfare services and drug treatment services can work together effectively to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. Dr Fiona Arney, who heads up the Centre's research, is leading the charge in relation to the needs of children and their families in refugee communities."

Prof Scott says evaluation of some innovative grassroots pilot projects is a key research area for this year and critical for making good policy. These projects include the involvement of a mental health nurse in child protection services and a family home visit program by nurses, which is proving popular with Indigenous mothers in regional South Australia.

"There are some wonderful, cutting edge practice initiatives happening across Australia but they tend to be localised and hard to sustain and are rarely 'scaled up' and embedded at a whole of system level," Prof Scott said.

"We are looking at how we can assist governments with the right research to roll out effective ways of working on a national scale."

As part of its consultancy role, the Centre recently completed a review of the Northern Territory's proposed child protection laws.

"We look at what works well. In essence, we study success, so that we can make informed recommendations."

A large body of the Centre's work focuses on the long-term improvement in children's health and wellbeing through preventative measures and early intervention. It is a whole of government public health approach which Prof Scott says is already making an impact in the UK and needs to be strengthened in Australia.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child, but what does it take to rebuild the village? Increasingly, communities are fragmented and families are isolated. A public health model looks at how we can grapple with the broader social conditions that underpin problems such as child abuse and neglect.

"One of the Centre's major initiatives is enhancing the quality of undergraduate and post-qualifying education for the broad range of professions involved with children. This is being led by Dr Lynette Arnold and aims to ensure professionals with these skills prevent and respond to child abuse or neglect," Prof Scott said.



Prof Scott says that by strengthening the research that underpins policy and service delivery and enhancing professional education, the Centre will lead Australia in a knowledge-based approach to the complex issues of child protection.

"We consider carefully how everything we do may benefit the rest of the country. I believe that is what gives us a national focus," Prof Scott said.

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From the Chancellery

Professor Peter Lee Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Academic

It really is an honour to have joined the UniSA Management team. I have managed to displace Caroline McMillen as the new chum and like her before me, have enjoyed the warmth of the welcome, if not the weather, over the past two weeks.

I am already impressed by the sense of vibrancy and purpose at UniSA. The PVC Academic has a wide portfolio but essentially exists to enhance the learning experience of our students. This is clearly one of the core functions of any University. "Student-centred" is at the very heart of the UniSA experience – from classroom, to library, to "back-office" functions.

I came to UniSA via Curtin University of Technology, our ATN partner in the west where I was the Executive Dean for Engineering, Science and Computing. One of the fun parts of that position was patenting and spinning out a company to exploit some technology that I developed with a colleague.



Before Curtin, I was Principal of the Rockingham Campus of Murdoch University in what was a very low socio-economic area with low levels of participation in education and tertiary education in particular. I want to use that experience to contribute to UniSA's social action in the northern suburbs.

Brisbane came before Perth, where I worked at the University of Queensland as head of the chemical engineering department. While we had a small undergraduate program at that time, we did have 120 PhD students which made for a very lively academic environment. My discipline background in chemical engineering was gained through studies at RMIT and Monash Universities, and a period working in industry. I still have two PhD students working with me in various aspects of process control.

The past month has seen my wife Janet and I uproot from Perth where we have lived for the past 10 years or more. It has been a whirl of packing, selling our house, farewells, and now trying to establish ourselves in Adelaide.

Having bought a house gives some direction to our personal lives and we have begun to explore Adelaide for all those elements that make up life – shops, doctors, dentists, vets, and soon a golf club. We are looking forward to moving into our new house and unpacking our goods and chattels and making "home" again.

At the same time I am very much looking forward to meeting more of the UniSA family in the coming months and becoming more and more a part of the UniSA community.

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In brief

Criminology conference

In September 2007, South Australia will host the 20th Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) Conference. This will be the first time that South Australia has hosted the event in its 25-year history. The (now) annual conference is the key summit for crime and criminal justice issues on both sides of the Tasman and in the region. Chaired by UniSA's Professor Rick Sarre, the conference committee consists of criminologists from Flinders University Law School and the Office of Crime Statistics and Research. The committee plans to draw expert international speakers and some 400 national delegates to Adelaide. Prof Sarre said key themes for the 2007 gathering are likely to be national and regional security and other issues that have become matters of public interest and debate.

Whyalla opens wellness and fitness hub

Australia's first community-based research program designed to help overweight adults is off to a running start following the launch of Whyalla's Wellness and Fitness Hub in April. The Hub is an important facility for the Shape Up for Life: Whyalla Nutrition and Exercise Study, one of the programs of the Australian Technology Network's Centre for Metabolic Fitness being run by the Centre for Regional Engagement. Facilities in the complex include a gallery room that creatively combines an aerobic workout area and artwork gallery; a wellness and fitness room with diagnostic and anaerobic facilities; and an aerobic activities room with equipment that includes rowing machines, exercise bikes and electronic treadmills.

2005 UniSA Medal winners

Congratulations to the recipients of the UniSA Medal, awarded annually to students for outstanding academic merit and a high quality of performance throughout an undergraduate degree program. Division of Business: Amy Sarah King, Bachelor of Business (International Business); Amy Krystal Smith, Bachelor of Business (Property). Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences: Dylan Matthew Kissane, Bachelor of Arts (Honours); Melinda Rankin, Bachelor of Visual Arts (Specialisation). Division of Health Sciences: Joanna Marcelina Keenlyside, Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy); Elizabeth Ann Lynch, Bachelor of Health Science (Honours). Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment: Alice Bednarz, Bachelor of Applied Science (Mathematical and Computer Modelling); Thu Giang Nguyen, Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) (Industrial and Applied Mathematics). Whyalla campus: Penelope Ann Kelly, Bachelor of Social Work.

Award-winning IP promotion

The distinctive Intellectual Property poster and brochure designed to commemorate the opening of UniSA's Blueprint buildings last year has caught the eye of judges at the 29th Adelaide Advertising and Design Awards. Designed by marketing and brand management agency Kick in conjunction with the Marketing and Development Unit, the poster won a silver award in the poster design section and the commemorative booklet took out a bronze in the catalogue design section. The awards recognise outstanding contribution to advertising, promotion, publicity and design.

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Classifieds

For sale

Oven, Westinghouse gas with grill, white, fan forced, 900H x 600W, good condition, \$200. Call Martin on (08) 8302 3767 or email martin.belusko@unisa.edu.au

Fridge, Westinghouse 400L, \$450; Simpson washing machine, \$300; Whirlpool clothes dryer \$200; All excellent condition. Call Jag on 0412 628 799.

Nissan Prairie 1984, station wagon, good working order, air conditioned, must sell, \$1500 ono. Call (08) 8379 9614 or 0411 647 515.

Accommodation

For rent, Cumberland Park, Large three bedroom furnished, excellent facilities, close to shops and public transport. Available from May-Sep 16th, rent negotiable. Call Leanne on 0422 008 582.

For rent, Parkside, one block from the parklands. Three bedrooms, study, family room, lounge and large kitchen/ dining room, carport. Fully furnished with linen etc negotiable. Available from 4 July to 7 October 2006. \$320 per week. Call Peter on (08) 8302 4358 or email peter.lumb@unisa.edu.au

Got something to sell?

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

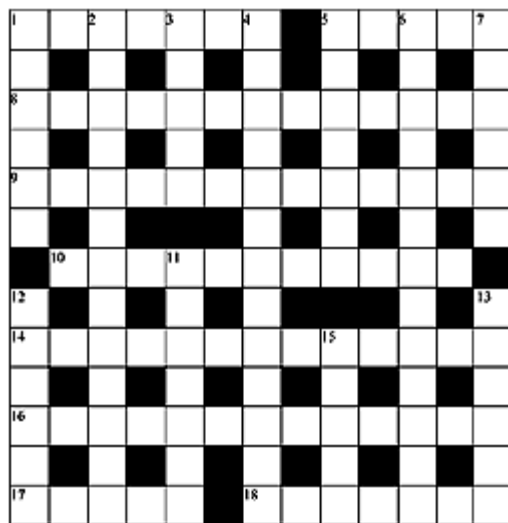
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Colgan's Cryptic Crossword



Across

1. Gallivants around to pick up devices (7)
5. Bank support for extra charge, it is reported (5)
8. League has 3 minutes for the captain (8,5)
9. Coordinated, evidently, as an annual event (10,3)
10. The powerful adhere to Roosevelt's policy (3,3,5)
14. Rail travels are through, takes flight out (4,6,3)
16. One providing in-flight meals? Unlikely (6,7)
17. Guarantee misses right result (5)
18. Writer, born of Indian heritage (7)

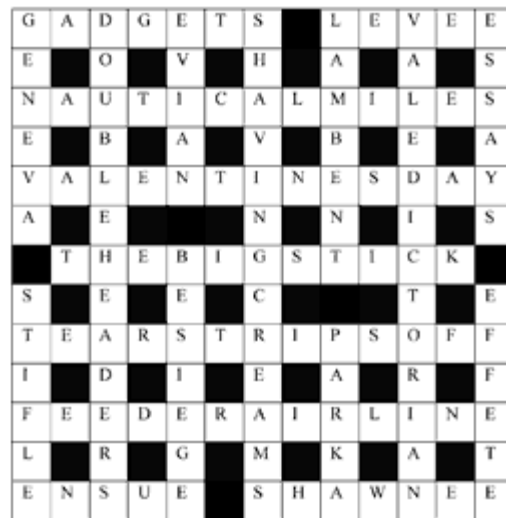
Down

1. A conventional city? (6)
2. Unfairly, they're tossed outside for consecutive games (6,7)
3. Drink turns green (5)
4. Complains loudly about holding moist toiletries (7,6)
5. Shining talent revealed following big hit (7)
6. Speech-maker's false lead is screened by statesman (13)
7. Trials proposed in mid-west states (6)
11. Surround badger (7)
12. Turns up late, having lost at squash (6)
13. Inside-left's fair but worn out (6)
15. Reserve a jacket (5)

Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday, May 19, 2006.

Solution



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: gallivants around to pick up ("gads" outside "get")
S: devices = gadgets
5. C: extra charge, it is reported (homonym of "levy")
S: bank support = levee
8. S: league has 3 = nautical miles
S: minutes for the captain = nautical miles
9. C: coordinated evidently as an (anagram of "evidently as an")
S: annual event = Valentine's Day
10. C: the (the) powerful (big) adhere (stick)
S: Roosevelt's policy = The Big Stick
14. C: travels are through ("trips" inside) takes flight out ("tears off" outside)
S: rail = tear strips off
16. POW: One providing in-flight meals? Unlikely = feeder airline
17. C: guarantee (ensure) misses right (without 'r')
S: result = ensue
18. C: writer (Shaw) born (nee)
S: of Indian heritage = Shawnee

Down

1. POW: a conventional city? = Geneva (Geneva Convention)
2. S: unfairly, they're tossed outside = double-headers
S: consecutive games = double-headers
3. C: turns green (reverse "naïve")
S: drink = Evian
4. C: complains loudly (screams) about holding (around "having")
S: moist toiletries = shaving creams
5. C: talent revealed (bent) following big hit (after "lam")
S: shining = lambent
6. C: false lead (anagram of "lead") screened by statesman (inside "Victorian")
S: speech-maker = valedictorian
7. C: mid-west (es) states (says)
S: trials = essays
11. S: surround = besiege
S: badger = besiege
12. C: turns up ("fits" reversed) late having lost at (le)

S: squash = stifle

13. C: inside-left (ef) fair (fete)

S: worn out = effete

15. C: reserve (park) a (a)

S: jacket = parka

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Our people - Kay Lawrence

On the same day in 1990, I was offered a teaching position in the South Australian School of Art and a major tapestry commission. I'd been teaching part-time at the School while working freelance as a tapestry weaver for around ten years. With two teenage children to support and despite some major commissions in the 1980s (making a tapestry for the Prime Minister's suite in the new Parliament House and designing the Parliament House Embroidery), I'd decided I needed a proper job with a regular income. I applied for a teaching position.

As I dithered about which job to take, one of my friends said: "Don't choose. Accept both." And so I did.

After teaching for a year, the University's flexible work arrangements enabled me to take a year off to undertake the commission. By that time I was pregnant with my third child. I took 18 months off and the baby spent the early months, before he became mobile, in a bouncer under the loom.

Balancing a working life with family life is the challenge that faces most of my colleagues in the School of Art. Having enthusiasm for both teaching and research is what makes the job exciting, despite the ever-increasing workloads.

Since I became Head of School in 2002, the School of Art has undergone momentous change in moving from Underdale to new, purpose-built accommodation at City West. We've survived the upheaval and are making the most of being back in the city, right next to the Lion Arts Centre. Being just a short walk from the cultural organisations on North Terrace, our students were easily able to attend Adelaide Festival and Fringe events, and Festival visitors turned up in droves to see the Festival exhibition Writing a Painting in our new School gallery.

Our new location enables us to offer our students even more professional opportunities during their studies, while highlighting the School's contribution to the culture of the city.

Kay Lawrence is a Professor and Head of the South Australian School of Art.



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Academic board

March 2006
by Peter Cardwell

Coursework Program Approval Manual

Academic Board approved in principle a revised Coursework Program Approval Manual. The revisions are designed to reduce and simplify the level of work required in the preparation for program approval, as well as the amount of documentation, while retaining the integrity of the process. Major amendments include: a refocusing of curriculum development and assessment around Graduate Qualities; separating curriculum development and the business case from program development proposals into two documents; requiring a number of priority curriculum areas, such as Indigenous perspectives, to be addressed; clarifying the extent of involvement of external stakeholders; and strengthening the business case, while at the same time requiring similar business case processes for both onshore and transnational programs.

South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Review

The Board considered the SACE Review Report released during the recent state election. The Acting Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic), Emeritus Professor Ken Atkins, spoke from a paper he had prepared, which outlined the basic structure and recommendations arising from the review.

In its submission to the review the University stated its conviction that one of the prime purposes of SACE should be preparation for transition to higher education. The Board believes that the review's recommendations do not further this aim. Similarly, in its submission, the University strongly supported the introduction of a new English subject as a required SACE Stage 2 subject, similar to the requirement in other states and territories, which would not be based on literary study but on an understanding of how the language is constructed and the capacity to use it effectively. The review also failed to address this issue.

Members expressed concerns that the recommendations from the review, if implemented, will militate against the adequate preparation of students for entry into university and social mobility. The point was also made that currently SACE is a successful international qualification, but the direction outlined in the review would see this advantage lost. It was agreed that Academic Board will more closely consider the SACE Review at its May meeting. In addition, Professor Alan Reid, a member of the SACE Review Panel, will deliver a special presentation at the meeting to which all staff will be invited.

Indigenous Education and Training

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Education, Arts and Social Sciences), Professor Michael Rowan, introduced a paper prepared to inform Academic Board on the University's position in Indigenous education and training, which was based on the DEST National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training.

In 2004, the number of Indigenous students awarded SACE in the state was 92, which represented a steady increase on previous years. However, Indigenous retention rates in South Australia are generally lower than corresponding national figures.

The University of South Australia has for many years enrolled a higher percentage of Indigenous students than the other two universities in the state. Similarly, the performance of the University is consistently above both the state equity indicator of 1.2 per cent, as well as state performance in all reported areas.

While there has been a significant decline in the proportion of Indigenous commencing students in South Australia and nationally, the University's figures reflect a sound maintenance of Indigenous commencing student numbers.

The University's retention rate for Indigenous students is 78 per cent, which has been fairly consistent over the period 1997-2004, and is above the national average.

Program Development

The following new program proposals were approved from the Division of IT, Engineering and the Environment: Bachelor of Built Environment; Bachelor of Sustainable Environments.

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Five to nine - A picture of retirement

by Michèle Nardelli

When lecturer and elite athletics coach Professor John Daly figuratively hung up his mortarboard and stopwatch in 1996, few would have imagined he would pick up a paint brush.

But drawing was a passion from his earliest years and returning to the world of art was long overdue.

"I grew up in a very working class environment, so the idea of pursuing art as a career was one that just didn't hold up – no one considered that you would earn a decent living from painting and drawing," Dr Daly said.

Like his father, Dr Daly was a keen sportsman, joining the athletics club Adelaide Harriers and competing at Adelaide University while he was studying. The progression into coaching and, ultimately, teaching physical education, was natural.



Dr Daly's career blossomed. A keen interest in the history and sociology of sport and Australian history, and his success as coach of Australia's Olympic athletics team from 1974 to 1992, fuelled his teaching and his ability to engage and inspire students.

"UniSA was the right sort of institution to work for because it valued and supported my practical engagement with elite sports," Dr Daly said.

Before retiring in 1996, Dr Daly had coached Glynis Nunn to a gold medal performance in 1984 and was a founding board member of the Australian Institute of Sport and a leader in its formation in 1980.

He also established the national coaching accreditation system and for his long service to sport was awarded an Order of Australia in 1991.

Today in the peaceful surrounds of Bridgewater, Dr Daly's life is a world away from the intensity of Olympic sports and busy teaching schedules, but his commitment to excellence and dedication to learning have not flagged.

Starting back with sketching and drawing, he has been developing his artistic skills with the same passion and dedication. His home features a striking portrait of Germaine Greer, a collection of still lifes and animal portraits.

He paints in the realist style and has found his excellent understanding of human physiology has been a real boon for painting figurative studies and portraits.

"Two years before I retired I picked up art again and I knew then it was something I wanted to do full-time – I find it so enjoyable," he said.

"I regularly go to life drawing classes and I have had the benefit of great teachers including portrait artists Peter Findlay, Robert Hannaford and Trevor Newman."

Dr Daly is also working on his eighth book since retiring, *From a Dusty Paddock: A History of Trinity College*, and still takes the occasional call from the media.

He will exhibit his work at the Artistic Licence Gallery in Melbourne Street from August 24 to September 24 2006.

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UniSA and SAPOL ZSAP crime

by Vincent Ciccarello

A software engineering partnership between UniSA and SA Police to develop computer crime analysis and computer forensics yielded its first result with the launch last month of the Zero Skills Analysis Program (ZSAP).

ZSAP improves the identification of electronic evidence of crimes relating to terrorist activity, child pornography, counterfeiting and identity fraud, by allowing police officers without specialist IT training to conduct analysis in the field. SAPOL, which is trialing the program over coming months, expects more rapid detection of offences by using the program.

It is one of a number of products UniSA's Enterprise Security Management (ESM) Laboratory and SAPOL's Electronic Crime Section are developing. The two-year old partnership was recently formalised by the signing of a Deed of Collaboration to further a research agenda in the field of security software engineering.

Dr Jill Slay, Director of UniSA's Enterprise Security Management (ESM) Lab, said in the past 10 years, the amount of electronic crime evidence requiring analysis has increased 100,000-fold.

"Especially with terrorism as an issue, we now have to sift through ever more electronic evidence," she said. "Therefore, we need a system that doesn't just rely on the expertise of a small core of police investigators working in Adelaide."

Other projects currently being developed by the UniSA/SAPOL partnership include:

- a laptop identification tool to assist police in the recovery of stolen portable computers;
- a communication analysis tool to capture communications to a computer, flagging emails or other data that relates to cyber-stalking;
- and a wireless security project to identify unsecured wireless access points and provide operators with information on securing these points.

ESM was recently awarded a \$184,000 grant from the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund to develop forensic tools for the investigation of internet-mediated drug crime.

"The grant provides a full-time post-doctoral research fellow salary to work with me for two years on a comprehensive review of the nature of the major types of drug crime in Australia and then to develop appropriate software tools to support the prevention and investigation of this type of crime," Dr Slay said.

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A lean manufacturing machine

by Vincent Ciccarello

South Australian manufacturers and business leaders will have a rare opportunity to hear Masaaki Imai, international Lean management guru, bestselling author and "father" of the global Continuous Improvement movement, at Lean Leadership 2006.

The inaugural congress of the KAIZEN Institute of Australia, in conjunction with UniSA, Lean Leadership 2006 will be held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on May 30.

The KAIZEN Institute takes its name from the Japanese term for "change for the better" and was founded by Imai in 1985. Lean manufacturing embraces the KAIZEN notion of continuous improvement by minimising waste and inefficiencies and derives from the revolutionary Toyota Production System.



President of the Institute's Australian chapter, Alex Crossley, said Imai was responsible for popularising the concept of KAIZEN in the West.

"He is one of the two foremost gurus on the subject in the world," he said.

Lean Leadership 2006 will be Imai's sole public appearance in SA during his first visit to Australia in almost 20 years. Crossley says congress delegates have the opportunity to "see how to do Lean properly from real masters.

"Many people see Lean as a set of tools, but it's actually a far more holistic system," he said.

Other featured presenters include senior representatives from Toyota Australia, Commonwealth Bank, Lucent Asia Pacific and Manchester Unity.

Lindsay Ryan, director of UniSA's Strategic Partnerships, said the University formed an alliance with the KAIZEN Institute and the Department of Trade and Economic Development in response to the concerns of SA businesses.

"We regularly hear companies saying they can't compete against China and other low labour rate countries with cheap imports," he said.



"Lean is increasingly becoming the global tool for companies seeking sustainable productivity improvements and operational excellence. There is not a business in existence that cannot benefit from applying Lean management principles."

UniSA is the only tertiary institution to collaborate with the KAIZEN Institute of Australia, largely through the presentation of the KAIZEN Blitz series of one-day seminars, an innovative, concentrated and repeatable way to deliver organisational benefits with minimal resources.

For more information about Lean leadership 2006, visit <http://business.unisa.edu.au/strategic/about/leanleadership.asp> or contact Sandra Walker, University of South Australia Strategic Partnerships (08) 8302 0801 or email sandra.walker@unisa.edu.au

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Heart failure beyond city limits

by Geraldine Hinter

Deaths from chronic heart failure are up to 50 per cent higher in rural and remote areas than in major cities.

While the number of people with chronic heart failure (CHF) is highest among people living in cities, a disproportionate number of people with CHF live outside of cities, where there are often fewer and less accessible services, according to UniSA researcher Robyn Clark.

A PhD scholar supported by the National Institute of Clinical Studies and the National Heart Foundation of Australia, Clark has been studying CHF population estimates in three geographical areas – capital cities, large urban centres, and rural and remote regions.



"CHF has reached epidemic proportions in Australia and is particularly significant for older people, men and Indigenous people. These groups make up a greater proportion of the population in rural and remote Australia," Clark said.

In most states and territories, the prevalence of CHF is highest in rural and remote regions and large urban centres. This is particularly so in idyllic rural locations favoured by retirees.

Of the 62 CHF medical centres in existence throughout the study, 58 were in highly accessible areas, with no centres outside of large urban sites.

This means the large majority of Australians with chronic heart failure are not managed by CHF specialists, according to UniSA's Chair of Cardiovascular Nursing, Professor Simon Stewart, who is supervising Clark's research.

"There is an urgent need to reconsider the way in which CHF is managed across Australia, with different strategies needed in different states and regions," Prof Stewart said.

"One solution would be to establish satellite centres for heart failure management in rural and remote regions."

While the Heart Foundation's Chat Study gives some CHF patients from rural and remote areas access to online support from cardiac specialists by telephone, Prof Stewart is keen to see patients from remote areas fitted with heart monitors that feedback information to cardiac specialists.

"This would enable heart failure management specialists to quickly assess a patient's condition and ensure early intervention. Most importantly, it will save lives," Prof Stewart said.

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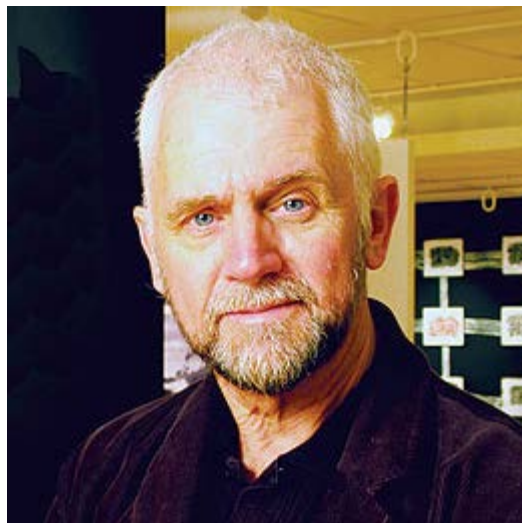
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Revealing the enigmatic Samstags

Upon his death in 1990, former South Australian School of Art (SASA) lecturer Gordon Samstag bequeathed US\$5.6 million to establish a perpetual trust to allow Australian fine art students to study abroad – creating The Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships. Vincent Ciccarello reports.

Despite his largesse, surprisingly little is known about Gordon Samstag, but a research project to uncover details of his life and work will receive a major impetus this month with the arrival of the inaugural Samstag writer-in-residence, a cooperative venture between the SASA and the Samstag Program. Well-known Adelaide art critic and freelance writer, Wendy Walker, has been appointed to the position to conduct the research and to lead a series of writing workshops with SASA students.



For Ross Wolfe, former deputy of the Art Gallery of SA and director of the Samstag Program since its inception, Walker's appointment brings the vision of a comprehensive Samstag biography one step closer.

"It occurred to me very early in the piece that Mr Samstag was a man whose life was a mystery to everyone we talked to. Yet he was an outstanding benefactor who clearly deserved some more light to be shone on him," he said.

In the mid-90s, Wolfe, in association with SASA, applied for and won an ARC grant to fund a PhD student to carry out the research. That work was cut short by the student's untimely death, but not before uncovering some significant information.

"Mr Samstag modestly concealed his artistic status and the considerable achievements of his pre-Adelaide life from all of his Adelaide associates," Wolfe said, "but we now know him to be a man of artistic substance – he had a creditable career as an artist, before coming to Australia."

Born in New York City in 1906, Gordon Samstag had been co-director of the American School of Art before moving to Australia with his wife Anne in June 1961 to teach at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. In October that year, he took up the position of senior lecturer at SASA, where he taught until 1970. The couple moved to Cairns in 1973, retiring in Florida three years later.

Wolfe has commissioned Dr Lea Rosson DeLong, a US expert in American realist painting, to investigate Samstag's American career; and, to coincide with the 2004 showcase of Samstag Scholarship alumni, *Kindle and Swag: The Samstag Effect*, Wolfe sought articles by Daniel Thomas for *Art & Australia* and Wendy Walker for *Art Monthly Australia*.

Walker said she became fascinated by the mystery surrounding Samstag through her preliminary research.

"Some people adored him but others felt extremely strong negative feelings about him. He was obviously a complex person," she said.

The Samstags enjoyed what has been described as a comfortable, rather than lavish, lifestyle. Walker said Gordon was always impeccably well-dressed but drove "a clapped-out old Holden". The couple lived in a stylishly modern house in Beaumont.

Walker hopes, with the assistance of Dr Rosson DeLong, to reveal the source of the Samstags' wealth. One theory is that Anne had inherited the fortune. Another is that the couple made a handsome sum from their book, *Training Your Own Dog*, published by Knopf in New York in 1961.

But the bigger question remains – why Adelaide? Walker recounted a meeting in the late 1980s between Gordon Samstag and Tony Bishop, then acting head of SASA.

"Samstag reflected that he had always 'marched to the beat of a different drum', and Bishop gained the impression that the older man viewed his years in Adelaide as the happiest of his life," Walker said.

It is a heartening premise – but we will have to wait for the Samstag biography to complete the picture.

If you have any information including memorabilia pertaining to the Samstags, please contact Wendy Walker on (08) 8339 2826, or Ross Wolfe on (08) 8302 0869 or ross.wolfe@unisa.edu.au

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New gallery named

by Michèle Nardelli

The philanthropy of a former art lecturer at the South Australian School of Art, Gordon Samstag and his wife Anne, is being acknowledged by the University of South Australia in the naming of its new art museum gallery.

At the introductory launch of UniSA's landmark building on North Terrace, Vice Chancellor, Professor Denise Bradley announced that the major new gallery now under construction will be named The Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art – University of South Australia.

"The Samstag story is one of extraordinary generosity and a passion for nurturing Australian artistic talent through education and opportunity," Prof Bradley said.

"Today the Samstag name is associated with the development of some of Australia's leading creative talents, through the unique opportunities made available by the Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships, awarded annually by the University of South Australia. In the 14 years since the scholarships were established, 105 artists have been supported to travel and study overseas."

The Samstag Fine Art bequest, now valued in excess of \$10 million, is the largest and most prestigious of its kind in the Australian context, supporting opportunities for Australian artists to undertake visual arts research internationally for extended periods.

The new Samstag Museum of Art, designed by John Wardle Architects in association with Hassell and scheduled to open late in 2007, will be a world-class facility of architectural distinction with the most contemporary of display features, including museum-standard climate control, specialised lighting systems and reinforced capacities for hanging large and heavy works. The gallery will feature display walls almost five metres in height. Stretching over two levels the 500 square metre gallery complex will be the second largest in the state.



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Playtime in the North

by **Rebecca Gill**

In March to early April, preschools across the northern suburbs were a lot busier and louder than usual, as parents took up the challenge of joining in with their children's playtime.

Their incentive was Project Lapsit, a half-hour interactive session, in which UniSA Early Childhood Education (ECE) students encourage parents to engage in their child's language and literacy development by reading books, reciting rhymes, engaging in finger plays and singing songs.



The project was facilitated by the University of South Australia's Northern Adelaide Partnership (UNAP) in collaboration with the cities of Salisbury and Playford Library Services.

UNAP director, Mike Elliott, said that Lapsit benefits students, children and parents alike.

"In a supportive environment such as Lapsit, parents are empowered to be involved in the development of their children's pre-reading skills," he said. "It is a great example of institutions reacting to real needs and working with the community – not at them. It reflects complex and powerful relationships, and a commitment to equity."

Jeff Meiners, ECE/Lapsit course coordinator, said students had received fantastic feedback.

"Site staff and parents are full of praise for the leadership, management and enthusiasm demonstrated by the student facilitators and we are looking to further develop this project as an ongoing feature of the ECE program," he said.

A visitor to Elizabeth Grove Preschool, ECE student Jacqueline Forjan said Lapsit was a unique way for children to build relationships with teachers early in life.

"If we as educators can form trusting relationships with these families before kindy, then the task of educating children will not be so difficult once they get to school."

And Claire Brideson, who was involved in the program at Family Day Care Network Group at Craigmore, said it had provided her with valuable real life experience.

"Lapsit has provided a window into how our future teaching roles intersect with other community organisations."

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Brushing up on design

by Rodney Magazinic

What started out as an exercise to demonstrate aesthetics and design to students has ended up as a life-long passion for design and technology education lecturer Stephen Keirl.

While most people wouldn't look twice at a kitchen washing-up brush, Keirl cites them as the perfect tool to educate students about design and ergonomics.

His involvement with brushes first started when he was working with school students and required a product that could be used to get students to think the way product designers do.

"Once the students start to assess critically the different brushes they unwittingly adopt the mindset of product designers. This gives them an understanding about the variables that go into the design and development of a product – ergonomics, production values, environment and how products shape our lives," he said.

He has continued to use the brushes in his university lectures where the classes include engineers, industrial designers and home economics teachers – all showing interest in the brush design from different perspectives.

Along the way, Keirl has observed some really interesting reactions.

"I've discovered that in every group of people I lecture there is at least one person who will have a fascination with one particular brush," he said.

"They have an urge to touch it and in some instances take it home with them. I have even been offered large amounts of money to sell brushes from time to time.

"I have also met individuals who are the exact opposite. They can't bear to touch a brush and wouldn't consider having one in their house."

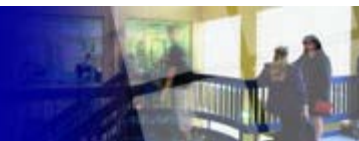
His collection now stands at 625 brushes and continues to grow steadily thanks to people from overseas sending him new examples.

"I've used the brushes when I have spoken at international conferences and I am now having brushes sent to me from around the world – Japan, Finland and Bermuda just to name a few locations."

Keirl's collection of 625 brushes will be the subject of the exhibition All Washed Up, on display at the South Australian Museum every day during May (from 10am to 5pm). For more information visit www.samuseum.sa.gov.au



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Sleep centre

UniSA's Centre for Sleep Research launched its new offices at City East campus recently with a flurry of fluffy slippers and brushed cotton pyjamas.

The opening was held as a pyjama party and everyone from professors and lead researchers to industry partners and CEOs donned their brunch coats and dressing gowns to join in the fun. The new facility, officially opened by Vice Chancellor Denise Bradley and the then Minister of Employment Training and Further Education, Stephanie Key, includes dynamic open plan office spaces and five bedrooms including bathroom and kitchen facilities for subjects involved in sleep research studies. The Centre for Sleep Research is working on major industry projects looking at pilot and driver safety and clinical research projects examining the links between sleep and sleep disturbance and health and wellbeing.



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Unleashing the Indiana in Len

by Rodney Magazinovic

Len Colgan would be familiar to many students and staff for his exploits in the school of mathematics for nearly four decades – but he is still so much a part of UniSA many wouldn't know he has just retired.

"I've always liked adventure," Colgan said.

"I wanted to be Indiana Jones but instead became a mathematician."

Colgan's career at UniSA began when he applied for a lecturer's position while still studying postgraduate maths at Flinders University. He spent one year at City East before the mathematics department was moved and he had to start making the long drive out to the newly created Levels campus in 1970.

"For 37 years I've been driving 66km to and from work every day. I've done nearly three quarters of a million kilometres," he said.

Colgan's positions at UniSA have included lecturing, administration and head of school. He was also heavily involved in the structuring of the University leading up to its formation in 1991 and has been program director of the Bachelor of Science (a degree that encompasses most schools and all campuses at UniSA).

And he will be familiar to readers of UniSA News through his monthly crossword, Colgan's Cryptic, an interest he developed as an undergraduate at university.

"I've done crosswords since I was a student – I like to have my brain challenged," he said.

"After a while I became a bit blasè about solving the puzzles, so I started creating them."

Another interesting "Colgan" fact is that he collects bromeliads – a large family of flowering plants native to the tropical and temperate Americas. Colgan's travels in South America fuelled a fascination with the plants and it wasn't long before he became President of the Bromeliad Society of SA, a position he has held for more than 20 years. Colgan estimates his collection numbers 2000 plants, including one named after himself, *Tillandsia colganii*, which he discovered in a very remote area of the Andes mountains in Bolivia.

In retirement Colgan is looking forward to continuing his travels. A veteran of 83 countries he says his passion for travelling has not diminished.

And while Colgan will be roughing it in such locations as Samarkand in Uzbekistan and Timbuktu in Mali, fans of the cryptic crossword needn't panic – even in retirement he will continue to submit his monthly puzzle.



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Playmakers build hope and trust

by Michèle Nardelli

It started with a soccer ball and a chance meeting in a local park last May.

When UniSA education lecturer Dr Gary Pennington joined a multicultural group of kids for a few fun-filled hours of games that day, he was struck by the power of play to break down barriers, give young people a sense of belonging and create a learning atmosphere.

A year on and Dr Pennington, with a little help from students, colleagues and community groups, has established an award-winning program that is making a real difference to new arrivals, particularly refugees from war-torn African nations – and at the same time is giving UniSA students access to life-changing educational experiences.

The New Arrivals Outreach initiative, recently named a winner in the Chancellor's Awards for Community Engagement, has quickly become a highly networked community project that has been incorporated into the students' program.

Mentoring, managing play, sport, tutoring and music activities after school hours, supporting families and liaising with local councils to develop youth initiatives in the community are now all a part of a Negotiated Study course in the School of Education.

Students engaged in the program are from many different countries themselves and many have been so motivated by the project that they continue to work in the community on a volunteer basis.

The work has drawn from the expertise of UniSA academics across disciplines and involves a core group of 11 students and representatives from 20 community groups, local councils, schools, sporting clubs and colleges.

The student feedback from the course has been exceptional. If the role of education is to open minds and make an impact, you can't ask for much more than comments like this one from first year student Verity Bruce: "This course has pushed me to extend my boundaries and as a result of getting involved I have learnt more in 13 weeks than I have in my whole life about multiculturalism."



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One pencil to share

by Vincent Ciccarello

Class sizes and the relative merits of public versus private schools are perennial hot topics in the local education debate.

One wonders what South African teachers, whose experiences are the subject of a new book, might make of the fuss – for them, classes of 65 or more students, spanning three grades, in schools that lack electricity and running water, are commonplace.

Impressed by a group of nine African students participating in what they thought was a group activity, the authors, UniSA's Dr Kathy Paige and Michael Chartres, watched as one learner wrote and the others waited patiently for their turn to write – only to realise they had one pencil to share.

This poignant moment inspired the title of the book.

One Pencil to Share: stories of teacher transformation in science and mathematics from the Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa, traces the progress of eight graduates of the University of Fort Hare's Distance Education Project, developed with the support of UniSA in 1994.

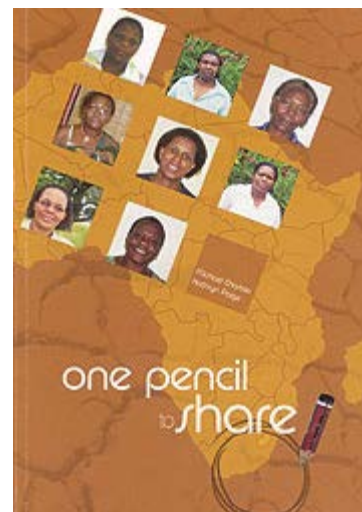
The authors believe the teachers' stories "celebrate and document much that is left unsaid about the significance of what teachers do, their everyday thoughts, dreams and challenges and their passion to make a positive difference to young people's lives".

Each teacher describes her own transformation from authority figure standing before an unquestioning class to teacher/learner, relating lessons to the students' everyday life against a backdrop of poverty, high unemployment, AIDS and lack of resources.

Noloyiso Garane of the rural Ncerane Junior Secondary School recalls how the Distance Education Project changed her teaching methods and principles.

"I started to love my learners. I started to love the way I present my lessons," she writes, adding, "it is not easy to teach because is not only about teaching... it is about how you relate to staff at the school, how you relate with your community and with your parents outside your school."

One Pencil to Share is available for \$30 from UniSA's Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work tel (08) 8302 6271 fax (08) 8302 6837 email creewbooks@unisa.edu.au



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