

UniSA News

May 2007

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



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Tribute to a significant career

More than 400 people – industry, government and higher education sector leaders – including former Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Blanche d'Alpuget, Sir Eric and Lady Neal, former Minister of Education Dr Susan Ryan and Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue, attended a special dinner celebration on May 9 to mark the career of Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley and 15 years of achievement for UniSA.



Prof Bradley retires from the University at the end of the month.

Her career as an educator in South Australia dates back to her first posting as a high school teacher at Brighton High. But it was her role in the history of UniSA that was the focus of the evening.

In his dinner speech Chancellor David Klingberg applauded Prof Bradley's leadership.

"One of the great experiences of my professional career has been working with Denise Bradley and my admiration for her has grown with each passing year of our association," he said.

Prof Bradley first took on the role of lecturer at one of UniSA's founding institutions in 1975. She progressed quickly in her career and at the time of the University's inception in 1991 was Deputy Vice Chancellor, playing a critical role in the idea, establishment and early growth of the institution. When appointed Vice Chancellor, Prof Bradley was only the third woman in Australia to hold such a position.

She took the helm at one of the most rapid periods of change Australia has ever seen – economic, social and technological – and huge change in the higher education sector.

Chancellor Klingberg highlighted the emergence of UniSA as a mature institution under Prof Bradley's leadership.

"The picture of UniSA's growth over the last decade is remarkable," he said. "Since 1996 student numbers have grown from 24,000 to 34,500; international student numbers from 1000 to 11,000; and the number of graduates has tripled to 100,000. Research income has also tripled and the number of research institutes has increased from two to eight. Annual revenue has risen from \$240 million to \$400 million."

He also noted that UniSA's reputation and success for research in collaboration with industry had taken the University to number one in the nation in 2006. Similarly UniSA's role as a leading Australian provider of offshore education had won it top spot from 2002 through to 2005 and five time winner of the Business SA Export Award for Education.

"Professor Bradley has built enormous respect for this institution among our peers and colleagues," Chancellor Klingberg said.

"Denise's influence on sector governance and policy leadership has been nothing short of extraordinary. Her eye for the emerging issues – university alliances, online learning, student services, capital infrastructure – and her ability to identify the questions that need to be addressed and her capacity to make persuasive contributions to their resolution has been sought by many state, national and international bodies.

"In particular her critical role in the reshaping of what is now Australia's fourth largest export industry, both through UniSA's international activity and as chair of Australia's international education agency, IDP, has gained international respect."

Reflecting on Prof Bradley's leadership, Chancellor Klingberg said each step in her career had always been a new challenge she had embraced with energy.

"Denise approaches new challenges with youthful engagement in the ideas, a questioning mind and a leader's eye for the horizon," he said.

"It is a mark of her leadership that change was never 'not an option', assumed positions could be altered, and existing presumptions could be challenged. This is what we expect of our universities. As Denise herself has said, universities need to be young and brave in their thinking, and in Denise Bradley, UniSA has benefited from a leader who has built those values into the foundation of the institution."

The Chancellor also announced that the forum in the new Hawke Building would be named the Bradley Forum to mark Prof Bradley's enormous contribution to the University.

"I thank Professor Bradley for her tireless efforts and ongoing contributions to our University and to Australian higher education," he said.

[Farewell celebration photos](#)

[UniSA Graduation Occasional Address by Professor Denise Bradley AO](#) (Word file, 44kb)

[UniSA Graduation Honorary Award Citation by Professor Michael Rowan, Pro Vice Chancellor: Education, Arts and Social Sciences](#) (Word file, 35kb)

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From the Chancellery

There are not many of us who have the opportunity to be part of the birth and development of a major public institution.

It has been my great privilege for close to two decades to plot the genesis, plan the mission and work to strengthen UniSA. It is difficult to think of anything you could do in your professional life which would be more worthwhile and more satisfying.

That's not to say, of course, that it has been simple, easy or without pain!

In all of the positions I have occupied since my appointment as Director Academic and Deputy Principal of SACAE in 1986, I have had to concentrate on strategy and planning.



While that may sound easy, in fact, it has been extraordinarily difficult. We have seen unprecedented structural change in the higher education sector – UniSA is a product of that – and unceasing pressure on the operating budget as governments decided they were unwilling to fully fund mass higher education.

From year to year, despite the fact that we have had two periods where the incumbent government was in power through several election cycles, all we could be confident about was that any assumption we had about funding, policy directions or government regulations could be turned on its head without warning.

This has meant that a new university like UniSA has really been forced to be clear about what it wants to be – able to envision a long-term future but capable of rapid short term tactical action to position itself in the reality of ministerial changes, economic downturn, severe funding cuts, competition from older and more prestigious institutions and the growth of a global higher education industry.

The price of failure is high and we all know that there are several Australian universities that have not thrived in the last decade.

Such a financially constrained and very volatile environment has made executive leadership in higher education a dangerous career choice for many, but I have been fortunate to have largely made the right decisions in my various roles. I have been assisted in that by what I think has been an extraordinary culture at UniSA. I believe this culture is its greatest asset.

My senior management colleagues have always been ready to work together for the good of the whole institution. Many in academia know this to be a close to unique situation!

Staff, academic and professional, really wanted the institution to be a success and have been willing to go the extra mile to ensure that would happen.

Our external stakeholders, and particularly the many members who have served on the University Council over this period have been both enthusiastic advocates and critical friends of the University. Finally, we have been extraordinarily fortunate in our chancellors.

The late John McDonald, Chancellor in the first year, held the new institution together through some very torrid council meetings and ensured we had a new Vice Chancellor and organisational structure in 1992.

Dr Basil Hetzel took a daring personal decision to accept the role of Chancellor in a fledgling institution which had nothing to offer but possibilities and then threw his intellect and influence behind the development of some of our distinctive characteristics.

David Klingberg has brought his business acumen, focus on results, concern for good governance and attention to the bottom line at the right time in our history.

I have no doubt that our new Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Høj, with his intellect, energy and entrepreneurial flair is well able to lead UniSA to a bright future. I leave proud to be part of an institution which has already made a real difference to the lives of tens of thousands of graduates and had an impact on the many organisations that work with us to improve their outcomes through applied research. With its commitment to openness, flexibility, innovation and collaboration, it has all the essentials for continued success.

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Classifieds

For sale

Pool table, 8ft x 4ft, slate top, green felt, turned legs, plus accessories – cues, pool and snooker balls. \$700. Phone 0411 699 311.

Couches, 2x2 seater. Dark blue corduroy, very good condition. \$500 for both. Phone 0403 993 833 or email kirsten.dilena@unisa.edu.au

Accommodation

Para Vista, one furnished room and use of house. \$140/wk incl power. International male student only. Close to transport and shops. Phone 0402 309 942.

West Hindmarsh, 3 bedroom homette, enclosed courtyard and garden. R/C aircon, lockable garage. Available from mid-June. Fully furnished if required. \$300/wk – negotiable. Phone 0402 309 942.

Can you help?

Calling all civil engineering students, from the South Australian Institute of Technology 1979-80. Recently returned to Adelaide, Ravendra Singe is keen to catch up with old classmates and especially old friend Peter Thiele. Contact Ravendra on 0408 945 021.

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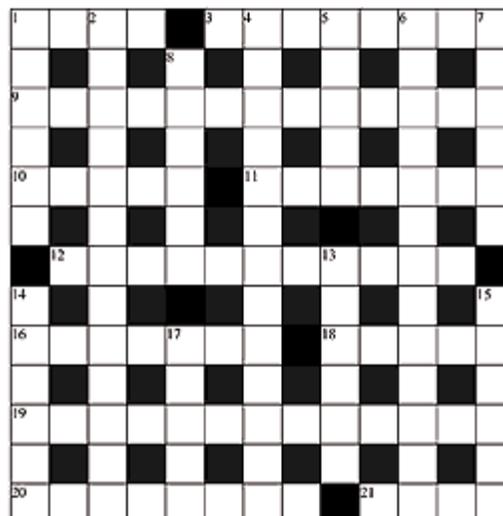
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Colgan's cryptic crossword

Across

1. Uproot, returning to town (4)
3. Females compose one in difficulty (8)
9. Publicly announce mistake before overturning Grand National winner's protest (3,4,6)
10. A low back scrub (5)
11. Rearranged the defence as the players directed (7)
12. Flower girl is having a drink, but declining the last couple (11)
16. A diminutive female wears scraps (7)
18. To sterilise the blades expedites cutting (5)
19. Old comedian introduced tree-animal as a national symbol (4,2,7)
20. The beginning of submissions foreshadowed leaving out a manipulative person (8)
21. Once the almighty waterway ebbed (4)



Down

1. Change into suit (6)
2. Those flying far, but returning (5,3,5)
4. Adeptly demonstrate that military training can be fatal (8,5)
5. Taps on barrels (5)
6. Mean piece of writing on slave trade transport (6,7)
7. March in short trousers (6)
8. Quells without opposition (6)
13. Doubtlessly you can read conveyance details there (6)
14. A way to get over large dose of melancholia (6)
15. Book a flight (6)
17. A gangling forward (5)

Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of [Whistler wine](#), fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday, June 8. Solutions published on June 12.

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New leaf

Social care practice in rural communities

Cheers, B, Darracott, R, Lonne, B

Federation Press, Sydney

This book is written for all those who provide social care to people in rural areas. Encompassing society's arrangements for meeting people's material, social and emotional needs, social care expresses our fundamental need to connect with others, belong to groups and look after each other.

The book breaks new ground with the view that social care is something that everyone participates in during the course of everyday life. Social carers include professionals, friends, neighbours, relatives, agribusiness sales personnel trained to identify depression in farmers, State Emergency Service workers providing emotional support to bushfire victims, ambulance officers consoling victims at a vehicle accident, and sports coaches listening to troubled young people.

The authors have more than 50 years experience in all aspects of rural social care. Brian Cheers has worked in community development and social and regional planning in three states; Ros Darracott is a generic social worker servicing a large area from Charleville in Queensland; and Bob Lonne, who is now at the University of Queensland, has worked in state government departments in two states.

For more information visit: [Federation Press](#)

Kai: Ocean wisdom from Hawaii

Provenzano, R

Watermark Publishing, Hawaii

This hardcover coffee-table book is a collection of stunning photographs of ocean life around the Hawaiian Islands.

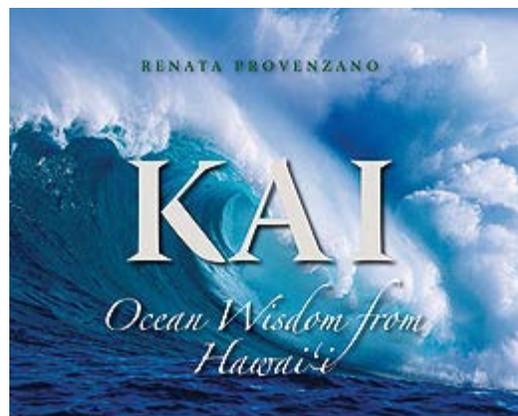
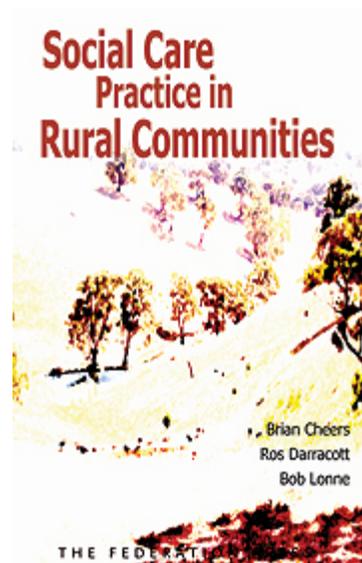
Author and UniSA graduate Renata Provenzano has gathered people from across the Islands - artists, surfers, oceanographers and many others - who give their views on the ocean as a source of creation, discovery, art, recreation, ecology and spirituality.

The author's own observations are interwoven with contemporary quotes and traditional Hawaiian proverbs.

Provenzano was born in Holland to a Dutch mother and Sicilian father. She learned to walk on a six-week voyage when her family emigrated to Australia in 1972.

For more information visit: [Watermark publishing](#)

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In brief

SAPOL says thanks

The boys in blue tapped on the shoulders of a few UniSA staff last month – and then shook their hands in a vote of thanks. Senior Sergeant Ian Hulmes and Superintendent John Peake (pictured from left) from SA Police last month presented UniSA with a plaque in recognition of a highly successful strategic partnership. More than 45 senior police have graduated from UniSA's Superintendent Qualification program in the last five years. A group of senior officers is about to complete the program and a new group began in January 2007. Accepting the plaque are (from centre) Pro Vice Chancellor for the Division of Business, Prof Gerry Griffin, UniSA Strategic Partnerships' Director Lindsay Ryan and Business Manager Ross Morriss.



Wet weather welcome

It is fitting that University of California Fulbright scholar Sara Hughes (centre right) received a wet welcome to Adelaide last month. She is here for one year to work in the Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures with Prof Jennifer McKay, Director of UniSA's Centre for Comparative Water Policies and Laws. Sara Hughes is pictured here with Pro Vice Chancellor for the Division of Business, Prof Gerry Griffin (left), Prof McKay (centre left), and Head of the School of Commerce, Prof Atique Islam (right).



Exit red Rosie

With the sound of bagpipes barrelling through the City West campus air, they came from far and wide to farewell one of UniSA's great personalities. There was music, there was poetry (Robbie Burns of course), there was even Scottish dancing and a touch of Drumbuie to send off Rosemary Mackay after 38 years at UniSA. The woman with the flaming red hair and lilting Scottish accent began work at the SA Institute of Technology in the Elton Mayo School of Management and has been with them through all incarnations as school secretary. A warm, generous colleague with an obsession for detail, Rosemary has a passionate commitment to the needy and marginalised. Her trip home to Scotland will no doubt find her roaming in the gloaming, where we can imagine her fondly.



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Discover. Deliver. Preserve.

by Vincent Ciccarello

A new internet portal opens a window on the world of UniSA research.

Arrow@UniSA (<http://arrow.unisa.edu.au>) a digital archive of the University's intellectual output, will allow staff, students and the wider public to easily access UniSA research.

It was launched last month as part of the national Commonwealth-funded Australian Research Repositories Online to the World (arrow) project.

Director of Library Services, Helen Livingston, said arrow@UniSA is a one-stop showcase of the breadth and diversity of the University's research.

"The service provides an easy way to discover the work of UniSA's inquiring minds," Livingston said.

"Research theses have been available via the Australian Digital Theses program for several years but there has been no one place to find UniSA's output. Arrow@UniSA changes that by providing access to theses, reports and articles from every discipline not only to University members but to anyone interested in leading edge research."

One of the system's special qualities is that it allows staff and students in postgraduate research degrees to deposit completed works in arrow@UniSA.

Authors can also determine the level of access to their content.

"It offers centralised, secure and ongoing access to UniSA's research output and ensures its preservation, which is a central goal of arrow@UniSA," Livingston said. "It's why we've given it the slogan Discover. Deliver. Preserve."

It is anticipated that by making it is easier to find UniSA's research, research impact – a vital measurement in the new Research Quality Framework – will increase.

Livingston added that arrow@UniSA will raise the profile of UniSA, its research and researchers.

"In the future, arrow@UniSA data will be harvested by the Arrow Discovery Service, Libraries Australia, OpenDOAR and other open access discovery tools and it will be made available to the world."

Speaking at the launch, Pro Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Professor Caroline McMillen said arrow@UniSA supports UniSA's mission to build and promote individual and institutional research capacity.

"By making our research searchable and easy to find, we make it less likely that our busy colleagues overseas will miss our important contribution to their research field and make it more likely that our colleagues can cite our ideas and work," Prof McMillen said.

"We are looking forward to a world in which the citation of one's work will be measurable and valued and this will likely apply to the full spectrum of research outputs in all disciplines from visual arts through to engineering, from humanities to health research."



For more information, visit <http://arrow.unisa.edu.au> or phone (08) 8302 6549

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New clues on post-colonialism

by Michèle Nardelli

Professor Pal Ahluwalia's latest research feeds his passion for understanding not only Africa but the post-colonial experience itself.

He is exploring just how knowledge about sub-Saharan Africa is constructed, who has theorised about these cultures and how their views have been influenced by their own experience as members of a post-colonial society.

Pal Ahluwalia joined UniSA and the Hawke Research Institute as Chair and Professor of Post-Colonial Studies this year but will spend part of the academic year at the University of California, San Diego in the ethnic studies department.

"Some people might consider the stretch across two countries and two universities a bit mad but it also adds enormous scope to my research," he said.

And while the research can be dense and complex, it is helping to make sense of the sociological and political developments in our modern and often troubled world.

He says post-colonial understandings and interpretations of society and history are a part of most modern experiences.

When the dominant knowledge, and therefore view, of a people, a place and a history are essentially western, anthropological and post-colonial – how do you discover a new perspective?

Is there such a thing as pre-colonial knowledge? And how much have modern thinkers – the postmodernists and poststructuralists - themselves been operating in a post-colonial intellectual framework?

These are tricky questions but they also inhabit powerful territory.

"Post-colonial studies go hand in hand with understanding how we construct ideas about race and nationhood," Prof Ahluwalia said. "It helps us to understand the rise and fall of racism in different parts of the world, why in some instances rebellions are considered a fight for freedom and in others, acts of terrorism.

"It also allows us to evaluate these developments within the political and social landscape."

Prof Ahluwalia said Australian history offers some particularly interesting perspectives.

"We are a nation established, and for a long time regarded, as a colony of Britain and at the same time we have grown and developed as a country exerting colonial style influence over our own Indigenous communities and those within our region such as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Timor," he said.

"It is a fascinating mix and an interesting exercise to look at our national character through the dual lens of the colonised and the coloniser. We find it has often had us deploying double standards in our foreign policy. Racism has also been part and parcel of colonialism – because the practice of taking over a



country or a people is made easier if those people can be portrayed as inferior or dependent. The infamous White Australia Policy may be off the books but modern statements about who decides who comes into Australia suggest the desire to control immigration on racial grounds is still not far from the surface."

Prof Ahluwalia says post-colonial societies are by definition operating in the aftermath of the "takeover".

"Issues such as race, tensions between dominant and submissive culture, history and historical narratives, and national identity will continue to be influenced by colonisation for generations. There is no way back to a pre-colonial perspective."

In June and July this year, Prof Ahluwalia will lead a master class at UniSA to examine transnational diasporas. This will draw together senior local and UK scholars to work on a book project.

He will also be working across disciplines within the Division of Education Arts and Social Sciences.

With Associate Professor Rob Hattam and other colleagues, he will be researching reconciliation and religion, analysing in particular the post 9/11 impacts on views of Islam, Christianity and notions of violence and non-violence. He will also collaborate with popular culture and communications specialist, Associate Professor Gerry Bloustien to look at how history is presented in museums and through popular culture.

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Spaghetti bridge winners hard to beat

Three second year civil engineering students were the outstanding winners of UniSA's 2007 Spaghetti Bridge competition after designing and building a bridge weighing 193 grams that was capable of supporting 53 kilograms, or the weight of a teenager.

The aim of the competition was to design and build the lightest bridge capable of supporting the heaviest load when weight is hung, according to course developer in the School of Natural and Built Environments, Terry Lucke.

"Students had to put their engineering knowledge into practice using spaghetti and superglue to construct a bridge weighing less than 200 grams," Lucke said.

"The use of spaghetti is a great way to demonstrate some basic principles of engineering because it reacts to the five internal stresses and strains within a structure – tension, compression, bending, shear and torsion. By constructing a model bridge, students are able to examine the effects of these forces individually and combined," he said.

This year's winners beat the 2006 winners by a significant margin, despite having to meet an even greater challenge than in past years, with the width of the bridge span being increased from 300 mm to 350 mm, adding an extra layer of difficulty to the competition.

The winners, Heath Mynhart, Daniel Tsagouris and Arthur Avetisian, spent many hours researching their design before starting to build, and it certainly paid dividends because they came up with the best bridge design.

"To my knowledge their bridge produced the best results that we've ever had in all of the years that the competition has been run," Lucke said.

"Generally everybody really worked hard on their bridges. There were some really interesting designs and the majority of them performed very well, even beyond expectations. The students put in so much effort and the feedback that I received from them was that it was a great learning experience and they really enjoyed it."

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Citation success

by Paul Kershaw

Winning a Carrick Institute citation for a project designed to detect bad learning traits early and help economics students to modify their learning methods has been the result of a team effort at the School of Commerce.

The citation "for outstanding contribution to student learning" recognises the work of my fellow team members Associate Professor Martin Shanahan, Adjunct Professor Eric Meyer from Nottingham University (who has had a long association with UniSA) and Ken Adams, as well as my own contribution.

The project is a three-way diagnostic tool that includes a questionnaire and analysis, an essay that shows students' learning traits, and counselling and support to improve learning methods.

I developed the software to run the questionnaire, analyse the results and give students instant feedback on their answers.

Professor Meyer prepared an essay on learning traits. As part of their assessment, students analyse their results against the essay, come to a conclusion and submit it. Students using incorrect learning methods are then encouraged to seek help to modify their learning methods.

Ken Adams works with students to correct their learning, helping them to develop their independent learning by enhancing their capacity to learn.

Our project began with a paper survey for incoming students that was soon replaced with a web-based questionnaire that students could complete online.

In the survey, students are asked 105 questions - 80 questions about their learning and 25 on five different aspects of economics. From the analysis of their responses, we can detect both bad and good learning traits and any incorrect concepts they might have about economics.

Students complete the questionnaire at the start of the semester, so that we can assess their learning traits before they begin studies, and we test them again at the end of the semester, to see if their learning has progressed in the right direction. In most cases, we find significant improvement.

The project has been so successful that it has been embraced by five universities from the United Kingdom. Their students complete our generic questionnaire online and we send them the reports. Some Australian universities are also showing interest in the project and want to experiment with it.

Because we have two sets of questions, one on learning and economics and the other focused purely on learning, students in any field can use it.

The earlier we can detect bad learning traits (for example at primary school level) the sooner we can embed the right learning skills. With additional funding, we hope to develop the tool to include all education sectors.

Paul Kershaw is principal lecturer in the School of Commerce.



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Gym with a difference

by Vincent Ciccarello

Brains meet brawn at the new HLS Health & Fitness Centre.

Unique Gym, formerly run by the UniSA Student Association at City East campus, is being transformed by the School of Health Sciences from simply a place to work out, to an integrated teaching and research facility.

While continuing to offer students, staff and the general public the standard services of a gym, the centre will also enhance the existing teaching facilities for movement-based programs and research facilities for physical activity measurement.

Human Movement and Health Studies Program Director Dr Annette Raynor said the centre also provided opportunities for placements for students needing supervision and experience in exercise prescription.

"Exercise physiology has recently been added as an allied health Medicare service but accreditation as an exercise physiologist is currently based on 300 hours of experience in fitness testing, exercise leadership and exercise prescription for healthy populations and those with chronic and complex medical conditions," Dr Raynor said.

"There are currently limited opportunities for placements of this type in Adelaide and so the HLS Health & Fitness Centre will fill a void."

Future plans for the centre include the use of evidence-based research to facilitate positive healthy lifestyle changes in a range of populations, specifically focusing on healthy populations (including elite athletes), populations with injury or chronic disease and corporate health clients.

Centre manager David Barnes said the gym was unique in SA in being able to draw on the academic resources of the School, .

"It allows us to run scientifically appropriate programs for a range of clientele and to offer services beyond that of a student gymnasium," he said. "It's a holistic approach to health and fitness.

"And it's probably the best value for money, centrally-located gym in Adelaide too."

For opening hours and membership rates, phone (08) 8302 1496 or visit [The Health and Fitness Centre website](#).

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