

UniSA News

October/November 2007

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



Opening the Hawke legacy
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Opening the Hawke legacy

by Vincent Ciccarello

UniSA's newest building, named in honour of former PM, Bob Hawke, is open.

October 11 was a proud and emotional day for former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke.

The launch of UniSA's new \$35 million Hawke Building, named in honour of the nation's only South Australian-born Prime Minister, was attended by almost 400 guests including political luminaries, captains of industry and philanthropists, many of them, Mr Hawke's friends and former colleagues.

Key speaker at the launch, SA Premier Mike Rann described the Hawke Building as a wonderful new asset for Adelaide and South Australia.

"With its bold design and striking façade, with its prominent position on Adelaide's great boulevard of learning and culture and with its remit to be a forum for ideas, for debate and dialogue on the great issues of our time, the Hawke Building clearly reflects the rich public policy and intellectual legacy of Bob Hawke," the Premier said.

He paid tribute to Mr Hawke's huge and positive contribution to the country and to SA.

"Born in Bordertown, Bob was a child of the manse," Mr Rann said. "So he saw, early on, at his father's table, all manner of men and women, communing, praying, discussing their differences, and exploring those parts of life they had in common.

"And he understood, early, the large, enveloping truth – that if adversaries merely meet, and speak, and break bread, and shake hands in parting, much can be accomplished, much can be achieved of the possible good there is on earth for all of us."

A visibly moved Bob Hawke spoke of the values instilled in him by his parents – of his teacher mother's passionate advocacy of education for all; and of his minister father's counsel.

"He said, 'If you believe in a fatherhood of God, then you must believe in a brotherhood of man'," Mr Hawke said.

He added that he felt his own personal values were shared by the University of South Australia.

"I was, and remain especially impressed by this University's commitment to reconciliation with our Indigenous Australians and to their advancement through education. I am also deeply supportive of this University's openness to inter-national students, particularly from Asia, as I have always seen global interchange as critical to understanding and peace in our region and our world," Mr Hawke said.

"These of course are the sorts of values which are espoused in the Hawke Centre – those of 'strengthening democracy, valuing diversity and building our future' – and of which I am very proud."

With Mr Hawke, Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj thanked State and Federal Governments, as well as benefactors Mrs Ros Packer and Mr Allan Scott and other donors for their financial support of the Hawke Building. They also paid tribute to former Vice



Chancellor Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley, the architects, builders and University staff involved in the creation of the Hawke Building.

"Today represents the realisation of one vision – the Blueprint project and the Hawke Building," Prof Høj said.



"Now we turn our attention to the strong pursuit of our vision for the future of the University – one of engagement, education and enhanced excellence. Today, we have widened the door to that future."

The unveiling of a plaque to officially launch the building was performed by Chair of the Hawke Centre and former Chancellor Dr Basil Hetzel and the University's current Chancellor David Klingberg.

The building, designed by architects John Wardle in association with Hassell, and which marks the completion of UniSA's \$167 million Blueprint capital works program, houses the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and Library, the 400-seat Allan Scott Auditorium, the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, the Bradley Forum and the Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art.



Among the guests sharing the occasion with Mr Hawke were former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam; the Governor of South Australia, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce; SA Premier Mike Rann; State Minister for Education and Children's Services, Jane Lomax-Smith; Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop; Senator for South Australia, Natasha Stott Despoja; Senior Vice President of the Bank of America and Samstag Trustee, Errol Silvestri; Lord Mayor Michael Harbison; Mrs Ros Packer, wife of the late Kerry Packer; and prominent SA businessman Mr Allan Scott.

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From the Chancellery

As I sit down to write the final From the Chancellery column for 2007, it is hard to believe that it has only been five months since I began my new role as Vice Chancellor and President.

It has certainly been an interesting year for all of us here at UniSA. In May, the University community bid farewell to a well respected and celebrated leader, Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AO, and welcomed in the new guard. Through this process, we have all taken time to look back at what has been achieved to this point, and we have begun the exercise of looking forward, developing our vision for the future.

In the past few months we have been consulting widely with our people to review what drives us at this University, our Statement of Strategic Intent. By the end of the year, the statement will have been updated and refined to adequately represent the University's evolving values and ambitions – to map a new future for the institution.

It is my personal ambition that in the coming years, the people of UniSA will grow the national importance of our contribution to our laudable ambition - that Australia becomes one of the world's best educated, most competitive, and maximally cohesive and sustainable societies.

Within the context of our continuing commitment to equity, diversity and providing opportunities to disadvantaged students, we will give greater attention to developing and encouraging high achievement – in both our students and staff. We wish to create a culture of excellence where people, no matter what their background or prior performance, are inspired to step out of their comfort zones to reach their full potential.

Amongst our current staff and students, there are some great examples of publicly recognised high achievers that we can look to for inspiration, many of whom were showcased in the last edition of UniSA News. They include:

- Laureate Professor John Ralston – named SA's first Scientist of the Year in the 2007 South Australian Science Excellence Awards
- Professor Barbara Pocock – named one of Australia's 13 smartest, innovative and creative people as the Society winner of 2007 The Bulletin Bayer Smart 100
- Dr Craig Williams – the 2007 South Australian Young Tall Poppy of the Year, and
- Nick Palousis (UniSA PhD student) – the 2006 Young South Australian of the Year and winner of the British Council Eureka Prize for Young Leaders in Environmental Issues and Climate Change

to name just a few. However, we do not all need to be ace students or publicly renowned academics or professionals. No matter what our positions or ambitions in life, we can all welcome new challenges; we can all be more innovative, creative and inspired. Above all, staff and students can all make a greater contribution to society following their association with UniSA.

As we approach the end of 2007, I would like to extend my best wishes for a safe and enjoyable festive season to all staff, students and members of the UniSA community. I have appreciated your support over the last few months as I've settled into my new role and look forward to leading the University into an even more successful and meaningful future.

This winning team might not be able to do everything, but we can do anything!



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Classifieds

For sale

Toyota Avalon late 2001, auto, cruise control, 128 000km, excellent condition, full service record, one owner \$12 990. Ring (w) 8302 2368 (h) 8332 0946 (m) 0402 237 420

Westinghouse Refrigerator side by side frost free \$400 negotiable, Simpson washing machine 2 speed 4 cycles \$200 negotiable, Whirlpool clothes dryer \$100 negotiable, 7 pieces Divan suite Jakarta velvet \$400 negotiable, Architect's chair \$75 negotiable. Moving to smaller accommodation, **MUST SELL**. Contact Prof Mazumdar 8332 5208 or 0412 628 799

Ford Festiva Trio ('97) 3 door hatchback, burgundy, 5 spd manual 80,000km. Aircon, CD player/radio, registered, excellent tyres and new silver sporty hubcaps. Service history. Excellent car/condition. \$4250 ono. Please contact Julie Tamme 0410 903 863.

Accommodation

House Sitter available for people looking for a mature responsible person who would take good care of your house or apartment. Recently separated professionals man in need of accommodation. References available, contact 0417 809 974 to arrange an interview.

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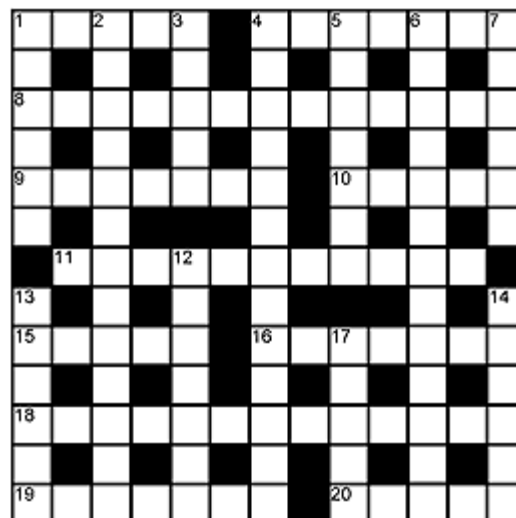
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Colgan's Cryptic Crossword

Across

1. Dedicated liberal lacked company (5)
4. Cot-case about to prepare final version of papers (7)
8. Local government in New York reportedly has legal representative (6,7)
9. Association lost its initial high spirits (7)
10. Suffocate an explorer (5)
11. A digression, possibly, if this follows itself (11)
15. Has an obligation for nothing bar the introduction (5)
16. Passionate sweetheart's thinking (7)
18. Meal I covered with small stones, with spectacular success (13)
19. Forcibly pushes through crash-poles (7)
20. A pastoral interlude (5)



Down

1. Pointed, dictated, and thereby irritated (6)
2. Significant work can tidy up theatre (9,4)
3. An Iraqi local and American together headed north (5)
4. Predicts support for ball-park figures (6-7)
5. A spirit in French house (7)
6. With pain, strides out alone (13)
7. One reports a person transferring money (6)
12. Province is fully aware of inhaling fresh air (7)
13. It reproduces loudly, like a dog (6)
14. A doctor of good character (6)
17. Pen put up for one animal (5)

Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of [Whistler wine](#), fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by November 16.

Solutions published online at on November 19.

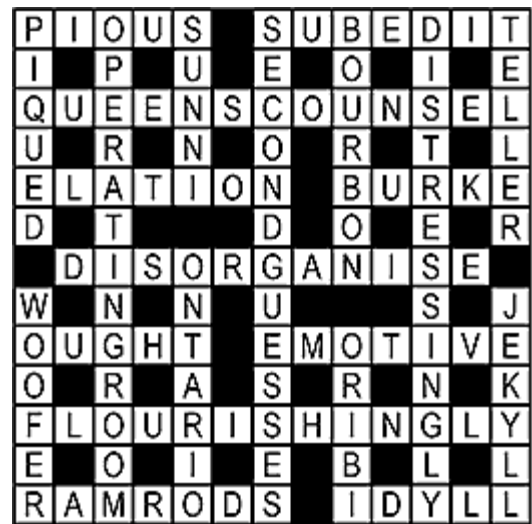
Solution

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: liberal (copious) lacked company (without 'co')
S: dedicated = pious
4. C: cot (bed) case about (suit, outside)
S: prepare final version of papers = subedit
8. C: local government area in New York reportedly (homonym of Queens council)
S: legal representative = Queen's Counsel
9. C: association (relation) lost its initial (without 'r')
S: high spirits = elation
10. S: suffocate = burke
S: an explorer = Burke
11. POW: 'disorganise disorganise' = a digression, possibly
15. C: nothing (nought) bar the introduction (without 'n')
S: has an obligation = ought
16. C: sweetheart (e) thinking (motive)
S: passionate = emotive
18. C: meal (flour) I (i) covered with stones (shingly)
S: with spectacular success = flourishingly
19. C: crash (ram) poles (rods)
S: forcibly pushes through = ramrods
20. S: pastoral = idyll
S: interlude = idyll

Down

1. C: pointed dictated (homonym of 'peaked')
S: irritated = piqued
2. C: significant work (opera) can (tin) tidy up (groom)
S: theatre = operating room
3. C: local (inn) American (US) together headed north (together, upside down)
S: an Iraqi = Sunni
4. C: support (second) ball-park figures (guesses)
S: predicts = second guesses
5. S: spirit = bourbon
S: French house = Bourbon
6. C: strides out (anagram of 'strides') alone (singly)
S: with pain = distressingly
7. S: one reports = teller
S: person transferring money = teller
12. C: fully aware of (onto) inhaling fresh air (containing anagram of 'air')
S: province = Ontario
13. S: it reproduces loudly = woofer
S: like a dog = woofer
14. POW: a doctor of good character = Jekyll
17. C: pen put up (biro, upside down) one (I)
S: animal = oribi

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New leaf

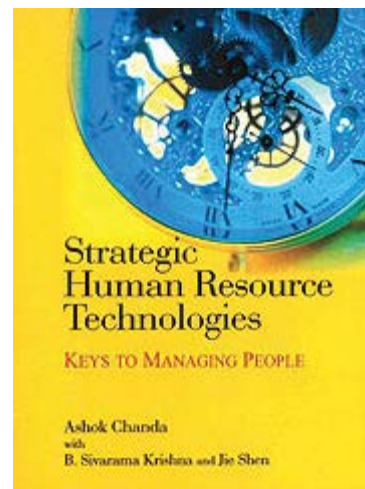
Strategic Human Resource Technologies: Keys to Managing People.

Chanda, A, Krishna B S and Shen, J

Response Books, www.indiasage.com

In today's globally competitive and dynamic environment, companies need to be flexible, responsive and internationally oriented. Traditional domestic markets and company structures are now giving way to global markets, and supply chains and virtual organisations are challenging the basic tenets of management practice. Employees, for their part, are now front-line workers who have greater interaction with customers. While technology is facilitating much of these developments, it is no longer the key factor in economic success. What is now important is people management and how it can create and sustain a competitive advantage for the company.

This book starts by applying the term "technologies" to a variety of HR techniques. While such an approach is contestable, the book sheds new light on HR processes and provides an important guide to the practicing HR professional. This is a welcome step and a useful addition to the libraries of those involved in research, people management, training and staff and management development.



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In brief

UniSA's IGSB MBA a hit in AFR's BOSS

UniSA's International Graduate School of Business (IGSB) was a stand-out performer in the Australian Financial Review's BOSS magazine 2007 MBA survey last month.

Almost 1000 MBA alumni who completed their degrees between 2002 and 2006 took part in the independent online survey. Only 14 business schools collected enough votes to make it to final list.

IGSB consistently ranked in the top 10 in each of the survey's categories. UniSA, the only South Australian business school to make the list, ranked seventh overall; eighth for satisfaction with the school; fourth for individual skill improvement; and fifth for value for money.

IGSB's MBA program director, Bob Gilliver said the school's performance in this important survey was a credit to the IGSB staff and the University.

"The AFR BOSS survey shows that the MBA programs valued most by students are those which offer real-world experience," Gilliver said.

"UniSA's MBA program is a rich blend of theory, leading thinking and application – the qualities that distinguish the MBA from other business qualifications or professional association membership.

"And, since 2005, there has been a strong increase in the number of managers and professionals enrolling in MBA programs to enhance their leadership and management skills – ample proof that an MBA remains a highly-valued qualification."

Farewell David Rivett

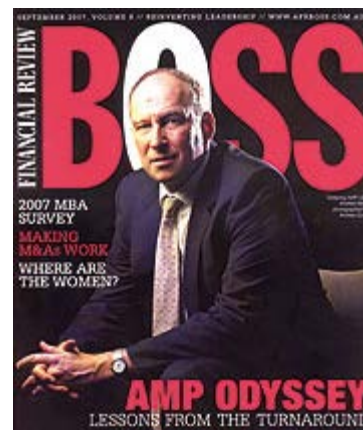
Colleagues, friends and former students gathered to farewell Dean of International, Associate Professor David Rivett at a function in the Bradley Forum earlier this month.

Prof Rivett retires after an association with UniSA which began in 1955, when he was a student at the Adelaide Technical High School and then the South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT), two UniSA antecedent institutions.

After a stint with the Commonwealth Bank, Prof Rivett became director of the master of accountancy program at SAIT and subsequently Acting Head in the Division of Business' School of Accounting and Information Systems and School of Commerce.

Listing Prof Rivett's many contributions to UniSA, Pro Vice Chancellor of Business, Professor Gerry Griffin said Prof Rivett and colleagues had managed "the difficult and complex restructure of the Division's schools" prior to becoming Dean of International.

"David's appointment as Dean of International reflected his vast experience in international education as



a teacher of our offshore programs, as a promoter and developer of his school's transnational offerings and as a leader of the education of international onshore students," Prof Griffin said.

"At a more personal level, as a colleague David has been a rock of common sense and a person whose judgement and views I have increasingly relied on. I will miss his quiet questions, directed at his Executive colleagues and his PVC, aimed at ensuring we understand the implications of our decisions."

Recognising our Future Leaders

The Division of Business recently held Recognising our Future Leaders, an event to formally acknowledge the contributions made by 155 students to improving the student experience.

Service activities that were recognised included Peer Assisted Study Sessions, being a student ambassador, the Business Mates Student Mentoring Scheme, membership of the EQUIS peer review visit interview panel and the Hands On Indigenous student event.

Certificates and letters highlighting how the students' involvement in the activities had contributed to their development of Graduate Qualities were presented by Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Gerry Griffin.

Boost for pharmaceutical sleuths

Under the Innovation and Investment Fund for South Australia, the Sansom Institute's Centre for Pharmaceutical Research has just been awarded \$950,000 to support its bioanalytical services. Announced by Federal Industry Minister Ian McFarlane, the funding is expected to create an additional 32 jobs. The CPR offers clinical, analytical and pre-clinical services to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry worldwide.

Dr Horrocks, our woman of distinction

Learning Advisory Services team leader Dr Liz Horrocks has received the Woman of Distinction Award from the Asia Pacific Business Council for Women for services to education in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The award celebrates the success of inspirational business women and addresses one of the organisation's key objectives - to promote and profile women in the South Australian community for their achievement in business.

Dr Horrocks has worked in the public education sector as an administrator and secondary teacher in Australia and internationally for many years. With a colleague, she recently won \$100,000 in Department of Education, Science and Training funding to produce a national resource for mature age students with disabilities who may be interested in enrolling in higher education (TAFE and University).

PhD student receives Ruth Gibson Memorial Award

Glenna Lear, a PhD candidate in the School of Education has been awarded \$2000 towards her final year of studies by the Ruth Gibson Memorial Award selection committee.

The Ruth Gibson Memorial Award perpetuates the memory of Gladys Ruth Gibson (1901-1972), an outstanding South Australian educator and community worker, whose vigour and vision promoted the interest of women generally, and raised their status in the world. Twenty-one women have received awards since its inauguration in 1979.

Lear lives in Port Lincoln and will attend a presentation of the award on October 11 at the National Council of Women of SA office in Adelaide. Her co-supervisors are Dr Tom Stehlik and Dr Peter Willis.



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Klingberg at Kokoda

by Michèle Nardelli

As someone familiar with PNG from his days in the engineering industry, Chancellor David Klingberg had stood at Ower's Corner, the doorway to the Kokoda track in the early 90s. It was then that the goal of coming back to "do Kokoda" was set but it was only this year that he found the time and opportunity to go.

With his son Josh, a few friends and a small group under the guidance of Wayne Enright of Healthy Teams Pty Ltd, he took on the physical hardships including 5am starts, rugged terrain, and the emotional churn involved in coming to grips with the history of the place, its people and the soldiers who fought and died there.

"In part this was a personal tribute to the young kids who fought so bravely in appalling conditions," Klingberg said.



"It's amazing to me that there still hasn't been a really decent historical film or television series made about Kokoda.

"Historically the Kokoda campaign is particularly important because this was Australian action – Australian soldiers under Australian direction. The politics and drama behind decisions made, the military leadership and strategies, and the stories of the young men themselves could be wonderfully portrayed on film and would make an important contribution to understanding our national history. It is almost unbelievable that some of the Generals had no idea of the conditions they were sending their troops into."

The other motivation for the Chancellor was to firm-up a longer term fitness goal that includes a planned trek up Tasmania's Cradle Mountain and then on to South America and the Pyrenees.

"The agility and fitness of our guides at Kokoda, many of whom are descendants of the original 'fuzzy wuzzy angels' was amazing – they are so fit and gentle and caring," he said.

"I think every individual has an obligation to look after their fitness and health. Setting these sorts of targets works well for me – it gets me into a training regime and I feel a real sense of achievement when I reach my goal."

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Bishop announces National Centre for Student Equity at UniSA

Capping off a memorable launch of the Hawke Building was Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop's announcement that the Australian Government will establish a National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education at the University of South Australia.

The Australian Government will provide \$630,000 in establishment costs and \$590,000 annually towards the operational costs of the Centre.

"The Centre will develop best practice for attracting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds and will provide outreach programs to universities, schools and the broader community," Minister Bishop said.

"The number of Indigenous students in higher education increased more than 5 per cent between 2005 and 2006 and this new Centre will work to promote and facilitate greater access to education for students from poorer backgrounds and particularly those from rural and regional areas."

The University of South Australia will work with the Queensland University of Technology and the University of Technology, Sydney in establishing the Centre next year.

Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj said the University was delighted with Minister Bishop's announcement.

"Access to education and equity for students from all backgrounds are central to UniSA's mission," Prof Høj said.

"We at UniSA are absolutely committed to optimising access to education in parallel with our drive towards further excellence in all aspects of our operation—ambitions that clearly are not mutually exclusive.

"The impact of increasing numbers of students with disabilities, provision of services for rural and isolated students, and progress in the participation of Indigenous students are some of the central challenges facing all universities.

"Heading the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education will allow the University to share research and resources nationally to improve the prospects of tertiary education for all."

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Moving views

by **Elizabeth Ho**,
Executive Director, Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre

Consistent with his longstanding passion for creating consensus, one of Bob Hawke's major interests today is to build better relations between Muslims and non-Muslims across the globe and in Australia. He argues for the economic rebuilding of Palestine as a pillar for world peace.

At home, he has been a key participant in the Issues Deliberation Australia project on the "Australian-Muslim Divide". This has confronted and tested community attitudes and encouraged new policy to build understanding between non-Muslim and Muslim Australians.



The Hawke Centre at UniSA together with Issues Deliberation Australia/America (IDA) and the Equal Opportunity Commission screened a highly commended documentary *Beyond Beliefs* - on Australian attitudes to Australian Muslims, and among Australian Muslims - in the Town Hall in September to an audience of 1100 people. The free public event was hosted by Ray Martin. Muslims and non-Muslims in attendance were able to ask questions of a panel which included Sheik Omran, a respected Islamic scholar. Speakers included UniSA Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Høj, the Hon Bob Hawke and the managing director of IDA, Dr Pam Ryan.

The screening of *Beyond Beliefs* elucidated the results of a gathering of a randomly selected microcosm of the Australian population who came together at Old Parliament House in Canberra in 2007 to deliberate on the cultural, political and social divides inherent in Australian society between Muslim and Non-Muslim Australians.

The outcomes of this gathering along with the detailed findings of the 18 month IDA study provide a fascinating and informative insight into current attitudes and more information can be found at www.ida.org.au

Both the Hawke Centre and the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies have been pleased to assist IDA in this important cultural examination.

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Action-packed road to learning

by Michèle Nardelli

If teaching is a university's core business then changing the way it's done has to have huge significance. The student experience isn't a flip marketing phrase – every student interaction with the University becomes part of a definition of UniSA – the reality of what UniSA is to its students.

So it is no surprise that students are at centre stage in UniSA's new Teaching and Learning Framework. With an injection of \$4.7 million in funding and a goal for changes to kick in by 2010, teaching at UniSA is set to become more engaging, informed by research and more focused on action, experience and quality than ever before.



At the helm of this organisational revitalisation, Pro Vice Chancellor Academic, Professor Peter Lee believes that while no change is ever uncomplicated, the new framework offers enormous opportunities for teachers and students alike.

"This is a great opportunity to look at the programs we are offering and how we organise our teaching resources and refit them for the future," he said.

"And while that's something that all universities do consistently, in this instance there will be real funding to power some of the important changes that may not have been possible in the past. It is not just about change, it is about investment in the future."

Prof Lee said the new framework will retain the centrality of UniSA's Graduate Qualities but will bring experiential learning into sharp focus to ensure stronger student engagement.

"The goals we have will ensure that more than ever UniSA will be an institution defined by the experience-factor, delivering savvy graduates, ready to work as outstanding professionals," he said.

"All programs will have a stronger element of practice-based learning, whether that be industry placements or through simulation of real world environments in which to practise professional skills. We will be ensuring that there is an increased interaction between research and teaching so that what students learn is informed by the most up-to-date research in the field. And we intend to make service learning a feature of a UniSA education in important areas such as peer mentoring, working with NGOs or student ambassador programs. Our target is to have a third of all student contact time filled with active learning initiatives."

Prof Lee said 19th and 20th century notions of education delivery are fast becoming incongruous for the e-generation student.

"We need to be much more conscious as educators that we are teaching in an entirely different communications learning environment from the one in which we were educated. That delivers challenges but also room to move, to improve and to recreate what we do."

Stage one of the transformation is a business analysis phase which will assess the quality, viability, market demand and capacity and constraints of all of UniSA's degree programs. This phase from 2007 through to 2008 will be led by a program review team comprising senior staff from across the University. Stage two of the plan will focus on program redevelopment and design and from 2008 through to 2010

implementation of planned curriculum changes will be under way.

Four heads of school have already put their hands up to pilot the framework and at the launch this month all were looking forward to developing a renewed vigour to teaching and learning and to using the opportunity to solve problems and improve business outcomes for their schools.

[More details about the process and the vision are available](#)

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Research futures

by Michèle Nardelli

Projects to improve the efficiency of solar energy storage, unlock the mysteries of debilitating genetic diseases, and to use nanoparticles to fight cancerous tumours are among the many to have secured support in last month's round of funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

UniSA researchers engaged in 14 ARC Discovery Projects won almost \$3.6 million for projects beginning in 2008 and carrying through to 2012. The funds support fundamental research undertaken by individuals or research teams.

The successful projects cover a broad base and include a focus on econometrics and advanced systems; information and communications technologies including broadband; biomedical engineering; Indigenous mental health; sleep, shiftwork and work safety; child protection policy development; the transition from school to work and changes to work and gender roles in the family.

And in an emerging area of growth for UniSA, researchers have built on last year's success in capturing health research grants through the NHMRC, by adding another four projects and almost \$2 million to the health research portfolio at the University.

Three projects from the Division of Health Sciences – one examining the benefits of Levocarnitine supplements for dialysis patients; further research into the treatment of lysosomal disorders; and research into epigenetic programming of the hypothalmo-pituitary-adrenal axis - were successful, and a fourth project led by The Wark™ will explore the use of nanoparticles to improve drug delivery to cancer patients.

Three Linkage Projects with industry were also successful in gaining more than \$1 million from the ARC coupled with industry partner investment, supporting research in chemical science, engineering and technology, and business and management.

Researchers in the School of Mathematics were awarded more than \$40,000 in funding under the Linkage International Awards to work on a linear programming approach to tackle non-linear control problems, and UniSA was also successful in securing almost \$250,000 in Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities funding for a biophysical characterisation facility to allow scientists to study proteins at the biophysical level.

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj congratulated all staff who worked on grant applications in 2007.

"The research environment is extremely competitive," Prof Høj said. "We are really very proud of the collective achievement of UniSA staff and we rely on their commitment and passion for their research as we aspire to grow and strengthen our research capacity."

Details of the new projects administered by the University of South Australia are [available online](#).

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A fair day's work

by Vincent Ciccarello

The School of Computer and Information Science's (CIS) Project Fair Day might have a carnival atmosphere but it's the result of serious student application to solving real-world problems.

On November 7, 60 students from CIS and the School of Communication will showcase 30 IT projects they have been working on during the year on behalf of a range of important industry clients.

Through contacts and links with UniSA and the CIS Industry Alliance Program, businesses and institutions including the Australian Computer Society, the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH), Comunet, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, South Australia Police, the Cancer Council of SA, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Northern Sound Systems, and Megaw and Hogg seek the help of CIS to come up with solutions to problems they don't have the time or resources to solve.



CIS lecturer and project coordinator Sue Tyerman said the students get valuable experience in dealing with the challenges that inevitably crop up.

"They discover new problems, they're often plagued with technical issues, and sometimes the clients might change their minds," Tyerman said. "The students are faced with ambiguity and choice, and somehow they have to deliver the results that are going to satisfy the client needs.

"In addition to their technical knowledge, the students need to use and develop team and time management skills."

There is nothing hypothetical about the problems presented by the client; for example, student teams have been working for the WCH on a health monitoring system for young adults taking antipsychotic medication, and an online adverse drug reaction reporting system.

Others have been developing a new program for UniSA's Learning Connection to help "at risk" students balance life and study.

"The variety of these projects really demonstrate the diversity of career opportunities for students in IT," Tyerman said. "The skills students take away from the experience will serve them well when they graduate and start their careers in the IT industry."

State Director of Microsoft and CIS alumnus, Mike Duhne will officially launch CIS Project Fair Day, which will be held at the General Purpose Building at Mawson Lakes from 10.30am to 3pm, Wednesday November 7. It is open to the public. [Register your attendance.](#)

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UniSA to undertake key strategic systems upgrade

by **Professor Peter Lee,**
Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Academic, and Executive Project Sponsor

It is always exciting to see improvements in our underlying corporate infrastructure. The Student Systems Upgrade Project, a significant corporate system project affecting our core business of teaching, learning and research, has commenced.

This is a key strategic initiative to upgrade and consolidate the University's two student administration systems.

Mercury contains the course/student data for short courses, professional certificate programs (non award) and joint offerings with partner institutions including Open Universities Australia (OUA), the South Australian Institute of Business and Technology (SAIBT) and the Centre for English Language in the University of South Australia (CELUSA).

Medici (version 7.6) contains the course, program and student data for UniSA award and non-award students.

More importantly, though, the project ensures the sustainability of our core student administration system (Medici) after support for the existing version of the software is withdrawn by Oracle, the software vendor, in August 2008. We have taken this opportunity to merge all student records into one student administration system, ensuring reduced maintenance costs and better positioning the University to undertake future system upgrades.

The success of this project is business critical. The scope of the project will be carefully managed to ensure that while some process improvements are desirable, the main aim of the upgrade project is to implement the latest version of the software to maintain support from the vendor.

As Executive Sponsor for the project I am accountable for project outcomes, providing leadership and direction to the project, and ensuring adequate project controls are in place. Many of our best information technology and business professionals have been assembled to work on this project.

I urge all academics, directors, managers and staff to engage and collaborate with the project team, directed by Lohlan Lee, at every given opportunity to facilitate its successful development and implementation.

For further information on the project please visit the Student [Systems Upgrade Project website](#). The website provides detailed information about all aspects of the project including:

- [Project Overview](#)
- [Project Team](#)
- [Communication Plan](#)
- [Leadership and Governance](#)
- [Risk Management](#)

Please visit the website on a regular basis for an up-to-date status of the project and to be informed of upcoming events.

The project team will specifically communicate with individual groups of staff as any changes impact their work – this will happen progressively culminating with the new system being released in October 2008.

If you have any enquiries or feedback please send an email to ssu@unisa.edu.au

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Clustering research around a great idea

by Vincent Ciccarello

Janet Dobb-Smith humorously likens her jobs to running a dating service.

"You introduce people who you know have interests in common but would never have met if you hadn't created the opportunity for them to get together, and raised an issue which drew them together," she said.

As the recently-appointed senior policy and strategy advisor to UniSA's new Research & Innovation Cluster Initiative, Dobb-Smith (pictured) has certainly hit the ground running to establish the first two of a number of research and innovation clusters that will bring people together from industry, the community and a range of disciplines to "work on big issues in novel ways.



"The University's Research and Innovation Cluster Initiative is designed to capitalise on the talents within the University and to better relate those to the needs of the broader community," Dobb-Smith said. "That's very consistent with UniSA's agenda in growing its research capacity and being very relevant to its community, providing services back to its community and appropriate training and research in those areas."

Based in Innovation House at Mawson Lakes and supported by the Innovation Economic Opportunities Group, UniSA's innovation cluster taps into a global trend to promote innovation through cross- and multidisciplinary networks.

"What people have recognised is that the biggest problems that face the world where research is needed – whether it's health or climate change or ageing population or water restrictions – demand a multidisciplinary perspective and novel approaches around those disciplinary boundaries. How people organise themselves to present solutions vary but clustering is one way of doing it."

Dobb-Smith, who started in late August, said the framework for two priority clusters - Defence and Security, and Sustainable Communities – is progressing well. Meetings with focus groups to flesh out the structure and membership of those clusters will take place by the end of the year.

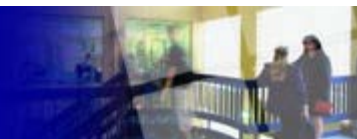
"Over coming months, and in consultation with academic colleagues, we will identify other issues or problems where a multidisciplinary discussion or exchange might be fruitful, with a view to forming new clusters," she said.

"That could be in the area of energy, the use of medicines, it could be in a number of areas where the University clearly has interest and expertise across a wide range of disciplines.

"I would like people to think of this as an opportunity for creative collaboration and not see it as yet another administrative or academic layer but rather an enabler and an opportunity to mix and mingle with people – within and outside the University – they just might find interesting to talk to."

For further information about UniSA's Innovation Cluster, contact Janet Dobb-Smith on 08 8343 8732 or by email at janet.dobbsmith@unisa.edu.au

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Consultation at work

As part of its Regional, Industry and Community Engagement (RICE) strategy, UniSA hosted an industry consultation workshop in the Bradley Forum last month.

More than 90 senior representatives from the for-profit, non-profit, government, professional association and industry peak body sectors met to discuss UniSA's engagement activities.

Pro Vice Chancellor of Organisational Strategy and Change, Professor Hilary Winchester said the workshop was part of an ongoing consultation program in Adelaide and two regional centres.



"The workshop was an excellent opportunity to obtain feedback from some of our important stakeholders on how well UniSA engages with the community," Prof Winchester said.

"There was a free exchange of views, and we learnt a lot about how we can best provide what the community needs and expects from the University in the way of teaching and learning outcomes, research and building social capacity."

Prof Winchester said the information collected during consultation forums will have a positive influence on the RICE strategy and will ultimately help to shape University priorities.

For more information about UniSA's Regional, Industry and Community Engagement strategy, contact Alan Fairley on alan.fairley@unisa.edu.au or phone 08 8302 5665.

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Embracing consensus and dissent and knowing the difference

Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court of Australia delivered the 10th Annual Hawke Lecture at the Adelaide Town Hall on October 10. This is an extract from that speech.



When is it appropriate to seek agreement or compromise? When should we stand up and robustly disagree? When is dissent a proper response? Is consensus, in practice, merely an attempt of those with power to cloak their use of power in the garments of agreement?

Living in Australian society, it is natural that we should strive to reach consensus with our neighbours. We might call it different things – compromise, conformity or bipartisanship. Majoritarian consensus is pressed on us all the time, and for good reason. In a sense, our political system forces elected representatives to accept compromises and to work to discover the middle ground across a range of policy areas.

The same is not true of Australia's independent courts, particularly the High Court. Under the Constitution, each judge is independent. Judicial independence is not provided for the benefit or protection of judges as persons. It is there for protection of the people.



In courts, dissent is sometimes addressed to fundamental notions about the role and limits of government and economic power. There is a limit to the extent to which the judges should struggle for consensus and compromise. Occasionally progress is only attained by candid disclosure of differences, by planting the seeds of new ideas and waiting patiently to see if these eventually take root.

The right to disagree or to dissent from the majority view in courts when things seem wrong or unjust is therefore one of the most important freedoms that exists in a democracy. On such questions, our institutions need strong concurrences but also sometimes strong dissenting voices. Australian society should value its dissenting citizens. Today's dissent may become the basis of tomorrow's consensus.

The time has come in Australia to strive for a new consensus on one subject – the rights and fundamental freedoms that belong to all Australians. Truly, this is a subject worthy of an attempted national consensus. I understand the resistance in some circles to adopting an Australian statute of basic rights. I was raised in a legal culture strongly resistant to such notions. I do not advocate a constitutional Bill of Rights for Australia with an effect that would invalidate inconsistent enacted laws. This is unlikely to be adopted in Australia because changing the Constitution is nearly impossible.

In essence, the model that is now before us for a statute of rights is the "softer" or "weaker" model. It gives no authority to courts to invalidate Acts of Parliament because judges find them contrary to the stated rights. Essentially, such a statute of rights works on two principles only. It encourages courts, wherever possible, to interpret laws made by Parliament so that they do not breach the stated fundamental rights. And where this technique of interpretation does not bring the law into conformity with basic rights, it permits courts to draw the inconsistencies to parliamentary and public attention.

One South Australian judge, and a good friend, hearing that I was giving this lecture, wrote to me and expressed surprise, as he put it, that "the great dissenter" was going to give a lecture for "the great consensus builder".

However, the key to Bob Hawke's beliefs is one that I too would accept. It is to strive for consensus on subjects that matter. But to recognise that there are other subjects that will inevitably divide us.

The secret of success is to know the difference between the subjects suitable for consensus and those that are not.

If we can find a new consensus about fundamental rights in our nation, Bob Hawke's legacy, and his instruction about the centrality of consensus in truly essential things, will be borne out. We will place basic rights above the partisan squabbles. We will give the courts new powers, but not too many. We will reserve the last word, as we should, to elected parliaments. We will enhance public debates about fundamentals - and the type of society we really want to be. We will distinguish between the proper place of consensus and the proper place of dissent.

Nothing is beyond our capacity as Australians. The time has come to forge this new consensus. It would be a consensus on something that really matters for us all.

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