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The Graduate

A publication of the University of South Australia

July 2003

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By his own admission, Graham Potter isn't much of a cowboy. The UniSA graduate is much more comfortable on a bicycle than a horse but that hasn't stopped him from making his mark as the first engineer to be employed by iconic South Australian footwear and clothing company RM Williams. [Full story](#)



Miriam's island adventure

For many, the South Pacific invokes thoughts of unspoiled beaches, romantic tropical getaways, or even 1940s Broadway musicals. But for adventurous traveller and UniSA graduate Miriam Lumb it has become much more – a unique opportunity to learn and a place to temporarily call home. [Full story](#)

Indigenous Alumni chapter launched

Approximately 100 graduates – some travelling from as far away as Western Australia and the Northern Territory – came together to celebrate the launch of the UniSA Indigenous Alumni Chapter as part of National Reconciliation Week in May. [Full story](#)



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When retiring UniSA Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Kym Adey addressed graduates at the Whyalla campus ceremony last May he told them he shared their sense of pride and achievement but advised them that they now began a new role in life. [Full story](#)

Graduates invited to International Business Week

UniSA graduates are invited to take part in the 15th annual International Business Week, to be held from August 18 – 29. [Full story](#)

Exceeding his own expectations

Being able to graduate is a great achievement for any student, but being judged as the most deserving for a University of South Australia medal for academic excellence was the icing on the cake for Whyalla engineering student Ryan Andrew. [Full story](#)

September 2003 issue of the Graduate

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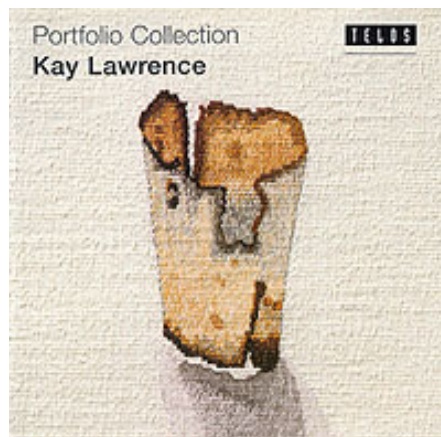
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New Leaf

compiled by **Charlotte Knottenbelt**



Wood Conroy, Diana, (author), Lawrence, Kay (illustrations); Portfolio Collection Volume 9 – Kay Lawrence; 48pp; \$36.95; ISBN 1 902015 28 2; published by Telos Art Publishing, England.

“Kay Lawrence is a world class artist whose work speaks of the poignancies of women’s lives. Her woven palette shades from minimal to

lush; the figural treatment varies from line drawing to moulded representational fullness; the moods range from sensuous comfort to spiky bereavement. The technique is in every instance superlatively assured and amazingly adroit...”

– Cath Keneally

The Head of the South Australian School of Art at UniSA, Kay Lawrence is widely regarded as one of the world’s top tapestry weavers.

Born in Canberra, she lived in New Guinea and Malaysia as a child before settling in Adelaide. After studying tapestry weaving at the Edinburgh College of Art in the 1970s she returned to Australia and set about building an impressive body of work that can be seen in collections from Canberra to Bangladesh.

This book, part of a series about leading textile artists from around the world, gives an overview of Lawrence’s work from the 1980s to the present, with three main chapters – Kay Lawrence: land, self, loss; the Women’s Suffrage Centenary Tapestries; and the Parliament House Embroidery (a project involving 498 women for which Lawrence as designer was awarded the Order of Australia).

Illustrated in full colour with photographs of Lawrence’s work, the book also contains a foreword by Christopher Menz and a definitive biography listing the artist’s major

exhibitions, commissions, awards and professional history.

The book can be ordered via the internet at www.arttextiles.com or purchased at Folio Foliage Bookshop in Hindley St, Adelaide.



Foster, John; Popular Literature for Children and Adolescents; ISBN 1 876938 48 X; \$55; 170pp; published by the Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University.

Even before the Harry Potter phenomenon, popular literature for children and adolescents had an important place on bookshop and library shelves.

Its reach has expanded over the last 20 years, with the rise of merchandising, multimedia versions and television and movie tie-ins, yet very little has been written on the topic.

Written by Dr John Foster, a senior lecturer at UniSA's School of International Studies, *Popular Literature for Children and Adolescents* is primarily aimed at teachers and librarians, but will be enjoyed by anyone interested in the genre. It aims to give those who are involved in children's lit the tools to evaluate it or at least understand its appeal and content, but without being judgemental.

Topics covered include the nature and appeal of popular literature, criteria for analysing it, popular fiction, picture books, alternative formats (including comics, newspaper strips, magazines and graphic novels) and the future of popular literature.

The emphasis is on Australian material, but Harry Potter, Buffy the Vampire Slayer and other overseas books and series popular in Australia are also considered.

Popular Literature for Children and Adolescents is available through the Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, fax 02-6933-2733.

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A LITTLE taste of...

Antipasto

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)

To those great and memorable sayings about food – ‘a jug of wine, a loaf of bread, and you’; ‘an army marches on its stomach’; ‘conversation is the enemy of good wine and food’ – I would like to add a quote from my grandmother – all you need is a bit of bread, some cheese, a little salami and you eat like a King.

And that simplicity was the key to good eating at my grandparents’ house – despite the fact that Nonna could cook most chefs under the table – it was the simple things we learned to love the most.

Antipasto, or the food before the pasta, remains my ideal for good eating. The beauty of this part of the meal is that it makes room for individual flair. Nothing is hard and fast about antipasto – it is small flourishes of tasty things assembled for your enjoyment.

Antipasto brings together the beautiful flavours of artichoke hearts and olives, of prosciutto and rockmelon or egg and tarragon, of foods that are fresh, preserved, cooked and cured.

In 21st century western societies that have not known hunger, it is sometimes difficult to understand the full ritual and purpose of food such as antipasto.

This style of eating is unashamedly indulgent but it is born from the legacy of famine, from eras when abundance of food was a blessing to be celebrated whole-heartedly – from people who relished feasting because one bad season could bring disaster.

So antipasto plays the role of whetting your appetite for the wondrous dishes to come and it does that by presenting an array of both delicate and bold flavours.

My list of must haves for a good antipasto include a great salami and some paper thin slices of prosciutto, melon, full plump black olives, a good chunk of soft ambrosia cheese, steamed whole artichokes with extra virgin olive oil and salt for dipping the leaves in, vine-ripened tomatoes with chopped basil, salt and black pepper on top, and boiled eggs with the yolks stuffed with anchovy and tarragon, some good fresh crusty bread and a fruity wine either white or red. But with antipasto the choice is yours.

And when you’re done with that – you move on to the pasta itself, so be prepared to spend several hours over lunch. As George Miller said, ‘the trouble with eating Italian food is that five or six days later you’re hungry again’.

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Career moves



Jun Yong Yang – who graduated from UniSA in 2000 with a Bachelor of Environmental Toxicology – has returned home to South Korea where he now has a job as a researcher at the National Institute of Environmental Research, as part of the OECD Screening Information Data Set team.

John Doherty has been appointed head of international operations at the ABC Asia Pacific satellite television service. John graduated in 2000 with a Master of Business Administration.



Carly Hocking, a 2002 Bachelor of Management graduate, has joined UniSA's Marketing and Development Unit as the new marketing communications coordinator. Carly is looking after UniSA's advertising, campaigns and direct marketing initiatives. She comes from the South Australian Tourism Commission, where she worked since 1997. She is planning to start studying for a Masters in Marketing at UniSA this year.

Got a new job? Let career moves know. Email your details to thegraduate@unisa.edu.au

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Engineer keeps boot makers on their toes

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)



By his own admission, Graham Potter isn't much of a cowboy. The UniSA graduate is much more comfortable on a bicycle than a horse but that hasn't stopped him from making his mark as the first engineer to be employed by iconic South Australian footwear and clothing company RM Williams.

"When I first started work here I was introduced to Don Tilmouth who's been with the company for 60 years, and the first thing he asked me was 'can you ride a horse?'," says Potter, who replied in the negative. "He said 'what you want to do is go to Parachilna and get on a horse for a week and then come back and tell us what to do.'"

Six years on and Potter isn't much better at horse riding, but he has had a huge impact on how many things are done at the RM Williams factory. And it all started thanks to an industry project he got involved in during his final year of studying for a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at UniSA.

"RM Williams was having trouble with an adhesive it was using and my supervisor Alan Dean (program director at UniSA's School of Advanced Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering) suggested they look at using an epoxy adhesive with fibres added to it for extra strength," Potter says. "Alan suggested they use the same material in a safety boot, and that's when I got involved."

Potter started working on developing the boot at UniSA in 1997. With the support of a grant from the Commonwealth's Industry Research and Development Board, he continued the research at RM Williams in 1998 and 1999, aided by the School of Advanced Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering. After rigorous testing with machinery developed at the University 'The Kelly' made it to the shelves last year, filling a gap in the market for a non-steel capped boot that adheres to Australian safety standards.

"By replacing conventional steel toecaps with a carbon fibre/kevlar material we have achieved a substantial reduction in the weight of the boot. In terms of appearance, weight and comfort there are only marginal differences to our regular RM Williams boots," Potter says.

The new technology has found favour with engineering and management types who have to wear safety footwear on site but also require the comfort and good looks of non-safety footwear. Other industry segments being investigated are oil and gas rig workers, aircraft refuelling and other occupations where the non-spark characteristics of the toecaps would provide occupational health and safety advantages.

The boot is just one of many innovations that Potter has been involved with at RM Williams.

With the removal of tariffs over the last two decades, margins in the clothing and footwear industry have been squeezed to breaking point, and it has become much more important for companies like RM Williams to look at how they can be more efficient. To this end Potter has introduced value stream mapping – an approach aimed at making manufacturing more responsive to the marketplace through a range of measures such as reducing the amount of work-in-progress and improving communication between manufacturers and retailers.

"When I started the process two years ago our average manufacturing time was 17 days, however the slowest 10 per cent of our products were taking 65 days to complete.

Now we're at five days, and we've gone from a position of needing around 12,000 units of finished stock on hand to less than 4,000 while achieving a better stock fill rate – and we haven't finished yet."

With an annual turnover of \$50 million, 250 employees and stores all around the world, there's a lot at stake, but as Potter is keenly aware, it's also important to hold on to many of the tried-and-true methods that have helped give RM Williams its reputation.

“It’s been a challenge for the company to look at what aspects we really want to hold on to, but also to embrace change and build more efficient systems – it’s always a balance.”

It’s a balance that Alan Dean thinks Potter is well-equipped to deal with. “I’m very proud of what he’s done,” he says. “As the first engineer in the company, he’s gone into a challenging environment and has obviously made a big difference to the way they’re manufacturing their products. It certainly makes my job worthwhile when I see what he has achieved.”

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Miriam's island adventure

 by [Jane Shirley](#)


For many, the South Pacific invokes thoughts of unspoiled beaches, romantic tropical getaways, or even 1940s Broadway musicals. But for adventurous traveller and UniSA graduate Miriam Lumb it has become much more – a unique opportunity to learn and a place to temporarily call home.

Miriam, who has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications, is currently based in the Tongan capital of Nuku'alofa, working as part of the AusAID-sponsored Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) program. The scheme aims to promote and strengthen Australia's relationships with developing countries in the Asia Pacific region via the work of its skilled young ambassadors.

A keen traveller, it was initially itchy feet and a casual internet search that led Miriam to the AusAID website. There she discovered a unique chance to both experience another culture and gain valuable practical skills in her chosen profession.

"I wanted a constructive reason to live overseas again so I was doing searches for volunteer work abroad," says Miriam. "I'd found it hard to get work in my field in Adelaide, so the AusAID program was a good starting point after my degree to get some experience."

Employed as a communications and media liaison officer with the national women's council (Longafonua'a Fafine Tonga), Miriam is now more than halfway through her 12 month placement. In this position, she has had the opportunity to explore the country's picturesque islands and, more importantly, trade skills and knowledge with her Tongan counterparts.

"As an Australian you're seen as having high quality skills, so employers want you teaching the people in their organisations," she says. "They get to learn, but I always feel like I'm learning more from them and their culture."

Not that this has always been easy. As Miriam points out, the Tongan lifestyle and culture is largely quite removed from what she is accustomed to in Australia. However, the transition was made easier through AusAID's intensive week-long induction and training course, which places a particular emphasis on cross-cultural awareness and understanding.

The program is also one of the few volunteer schemes to offer participants a living allowance throughout their time abroad – although for Miriam, this is only a minor perk compared to the many rewarding experiences she has had during her time in Tonga. Particular standouts include enjoying a more relaxed work and social environment, as well as the chance to form solid personal relationships with Tongan families and elders.

"The Tongans are just amazing people, there's a real focus on the family and everything is shared," she says. "It's more of a collective society than an individual one, and I think it's a really healthy way to live."

After completing her placement, Miriam hopes to put her newly acquired skills and knowledge to use in a position closer to home – at least for a while. She hasn't ruled out the possibility of further overseas volunteering stints, and certainly isn't short of other ideas for the future.

"Now that I've started travelling I have the urge to live overseas more," she says. "My problem is probably having too many plans."

More information on the Youth Ambassadors for Development Program is available at www.ausaid.gov.au/

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Indigenous Alumni chapter launched

by [Leanne Smith](#)

UniSA (and its antecedent institutions) has had an ongoing commitment to Indigenous education for more than 30 years, and it was timely to host such an event to celebrate the success of more than 600 graduates across all discipline areas.

At the function Professor Michael Rowan welcomed alumni members on behalf of the Vice Chancellor and emphasised the important role that each and every graduate has to play, both in the Indigenous and wider communities. He also presented the Lewis O'Brien scholarship to Nyrell Patel, a Doctor of Counselling student.



The scholarship was established to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to undertake postgraduate study in UniSA's Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences.

Nyrell works at the Adelaide Central Health Service where she coordinates culturally appropriate and inclusive community development programs for Aboriginal people within the metropolitan area.



For more information about the UniSA Indigenous Alumni Chapter, check out the alumni website at www.alumni.net.au/ or contact Leanne Smith on (08) 8302 6784 or email leanne.smith@unisa.edu.au

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Nursing graduates making a difference in Port Lincoln

by [Cathy Hughes](#)



When retiring UniSA Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Kym Adey addressed graduates at the Whyalla campus ceremony last May he told them he shared their sense of pride and achievement but advised them that they now began a new role in life.

“We need to make a difference, and I hope that you can make a difference”, he said.

“As challenging as your study has been to date, your work has only just begun ...”

“Never before have we needed the intervention of enlightened professionals as we do today.”

Judith Borg and Brooke Cox felt especially proud of their achievement as the first Indigenous nursing students to have graduated from UniSA’s Port Lincoln Aboriginal and Islander Study Centre.

‘It’s overwhelming, but I’m really pleased,’ Brooke said before receiving her parchment. “A lot of people in Port Lincoln are proud of us.”

Joining Brooke and Judith for the ceremony were Port Lincoln Study Centre coordinator Sue Mills, tutor Lyn Lemmey and Margaret Mibus, a careers advisor at

the Department of Human Service's Aboriginal Services Division.

"I think it's a very memorable achievement and their success is very well deserved," Mills said. "They've both faced a lot of challenges but they've persevered and have both successfully completed their studies."

Brooke and Judith are both working in allied areas of the Aboriginal health sector and both expressed a sense of honour about their important roles in the Port Lincoln community.

"As one of a very few Indigenous RN's in the state it gives me great pride to be able to contribute my bit for Indigenous health," Brooke said.

Similar sentiments were shared by Judith. "I feel excited at the challenges I've got ahead, and I'm hoping that because of my qualification I will be a role model for other Aboriginal people to go out there and do the same."

Brooke is currently working as a graduate nurse at the Port Lincoln Hospital while Judith is employed at the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service as the chronic disease self management project officer and works one day a week at the hospital as a diabetes educator.

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Graduates invited to International Business Week

UniSA graduates are invited to take part in the 15th annual International Business Week, to be held from August 18 – 29.

With 40 seminars aimed at motivating local and regional businesses to develop successful and sustainable international trade, UniSA IBW 2003 is set to be one of the most comprehensive programs in the event's history.

From August 18 – 22, representatives from several key international trade assistance organisations will visit 10 regional centres throughout rural South Australia as well as Broken Hill. One of the highlights of the regional IBW program will be a seminar on nursing employment as a business opportunity for regional healthcare partnerships, presented by UniSA's School of Nursing and Midwifery in conjunction with the Whyalla campus.

From August 25-29 the focus will shift to metropolitan Adelaide, with more than 25 seminars on a diverse range of management, education and research issues to be hosted by UniSA staff.

Many of the seminars will be free, while most that charge admission offer a generous student concession. Drinks and nibbles will be served at all seminars. To view full program details and register online, visit the UniSA IBW website at www.unisaibw.kaz-group.com, or contact IBW project officer John Kerr on (08) 8302 0925.

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Ryan achieves beyond his expectations

by **Cathy Hughes**



Being able to graduate is a great achievement for any student, but being judged as the most deserving for a University of South Australia medal for academic excellence was the icing on the cake for Whyalla engineering student Ryan Andrew.

Ryan is the classic quiet achiever who has simply got on with the job of doing the best that he can.

"I always like to do my best, and put in 100 percent. There's no point in doing things half-hearted," Ryan says.

He has certainly kept true to his word, and done so in remarkable style as he was announced as a multiple award winner at the 2003 UniSA Whyalla campus graduation ceremony last May.

He cleaned up in the awards, also receiving the OneSteel Whyalla Prize, the Institute of Engineers Australia Whyalla Group Prize (for an engineering degree student) and the UniSA Alumni Association Certificate of Achievement (for the Bachelor of Engineering – Electrical and Electronic Engineering).

Ryan began studying in 1996 when he joined the cadetship program offered at BHP which allowed him to work fulltime while studying engineering at Whyalla.

"I've wanted to be an electrical engineer since I was 14," he says. "I really appreciated the cadetship because it was a good opportunity to get practical experience on the job in combination with my university studies."

Ryan says working full-time and trying to keep up with the demanding study load and his own personal goals required a large commitment.

“It was challenging...and you get out of it what you put in... but I had a lot of support from my family, particularly my parents and wife. I couldn’t have achieved what I have without them.”

Reflecting on his achievements Ryan says he felt a huge sense of accomplishment at finishing his degree program with Honours.

“I have exceeded my own expectations.”

Ryan’s supervising lecturer Kollengode Ananthakrishnan said that Ryan would be an outstanding engineer and an excellent role model for future students.

“Right from day one he was systematic and methodical in his studies and took pride in his achievements. I certainly enjoyed teaching him as he was always enthusiastic and interested in meeting the academic challenges presented to him.”

As an example of Ryan’s commitment to taking on such challenges, his final year of study as an Honours degree student saw him devising the technology for a voice activated wheel chair.

Ryan is currently employed as an electrical engineer at the Rolling Mills-OneSteel, Whyalla.

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