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UniSA News

A newspaper of the University of South Australia

August 2003

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August 2003 issue of UniSANews

Closing date July 25
Distribution August 15
[2003 UniSANews schedule](#)

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or disk to UniSANews, Marketing and Development Unit, City West.
Include all related files, such as pictures, non-standard fonts (screen and printer), logos, other graphics.

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From the Vice Chancellor

by [Professor Denise Bradley AO](#)
Vice Chancellor and President



Spotlight on university governance

Backing Australia's Future, the federal government's review of Australian higher education, has drawn attention to governance of universities through its requirement that universities comply with a set of national governance protocols for public higher education institutions.

UniSA's present governance arrangements meet the majority of the requirements of the protocols and the Council, with the leadership of the Chancellor, has been rigorous in its annual review of its performance.

The annual reviews undertaken by Council have led to the progressive implementation of principles of good governance including a code of conduct for Council members, a systematic approach to risk management, an induction program for new members, documented roles and responsibilities of the Chancellor and members of Council and a comprehensive annual performance review of the Vice Chancellor.

UniSA's Council has 21 members – 12 external to the University and nine internal (including three student and four staff representatives). Internal members serve ex officio – the Vice Chancellor and the Chair of Academic Board are elected by their colleagues.

The process for choosing external members begins with a rigorous review of the Council's skill profile and any gaps it may contain. Once it is clear what skills are needed possible external members (including the Chancellor) are approached to see if they are interested in serving the institution. If they are prepared to do this they are appointed on the basis of their expertise and commitment to the mission of the University. They serve as Council members without any remuneration. The knowledge of our external Council members brings a critical element to the University's

development as a successful and dynamic institution.

The Chancellor, David Klingberg AM, has a background in engineering and long experience at senior management level in Australia and Asia. Through his considerable strategic and management skills, he helped to build a small Adelaide-based engineering consulting and contracting business (Kinhill Engineering) into the largest in its field in Australia. He is now a professional company director but, nevertheless, spends about three days each week on University business.

The Deputy Chancellor, Alice McCleary, has a background in accounting and economics and chairs Finance Committee. She is a consultant at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and brings considerable management, governance and financial skills to this position. Ian McLachlan, a partner in the firm McLachlan Hodge Mitchell, is also someone with professional skills in financial matters.

Other external members with commercial and financial expertise include Peter Smith, Strategic Planning Consultant and former CEO of British Aerospace; Jim Birch, CEO of the Department of Human Services; Bill Cossey, CEO of the Courts Administration Authority; and Dr Patricia Crook AO, Managing Director of Dynek and President of Business SA. Greg Mackie OAM, Director of Imprints Booksellers and former Adelaide City Councillor, brings his small business management expertise and passion for the arts to the Council.

Virginia Hickey chairs Audit Committee and contributes her legal knowledge and experience to Council's deliberations; Jan Lowe, Deputy Director of the Office of Regional Development brings her knowledge of human resource management to her role as Chair of Appeals Committees and the Senior Promotions Committee; while Bruce Linn, Executive Director of the SA Government Account for EDS, brings expertise in information and communications technology, business strategy and business development.

UniSA has always sought to appoint a significant member of the Indigenous community to its Council. We are delighted that Jillian Miller, Superintendent of the Aboriginal Education Unit in the Department of Education and Children Services, joined the Council in 2003.

As the commonwealth government's policy proposals are debated by the

parliament UniSA will continue to apply principles of good governance to all its operations. Implementation of these principles is made easy because our Council has the collective skills, know-how and appropriate working framework to address its responsibilities.

For more information on Our universities: Backing Australia's future visit:

www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au/policy_paper/policy_paper.pdf

(page 15 and Attachment A)

For more information on the UniSA's Council and its members visit:

www.unisa.edu.au/unicouncil/

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News in brief

\$12,000 available for innovators

Applications for the 2003 Vice Chancellor's Awards for Innovation are now open, following the awards' launch on August 5. With \$12,000 in funding on offer, the awards are open to UniSA staff members who are developing an innovative product or process improvement.

With two new commendation awards sponsored by the University's commercialisation company ITEK, the awards were launched at Mawson Lakes with a seminar featuring talks from intellectual property (IP) specialists, lawyers and commercialisation experts.

Applications close on Friday October 3. For application forms and more information contact Matt Taverner on 8302 0158 or email matthew.taverner@unisa.edu.au

Teaching grants awarded

Three project teams from within the University have each been awarded \$40,000 in the 2003 UniSA Teaching Grants.

Associate Professor Ingrid Day and colleagues in the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences and the Flexible Learning Centre will receive a grant for their project aimed at developing a systematic approach to supporting students in their first year of university study.

Meanwhile, Professor Andy Koronios and colleagues from the School of Computer and Information Science, School of Education and Division of Business and Enterprise have been granted funds to develop an intelligent student response system to enhance interactivity in e-learning transactions; and Associate Professor Angela Scarino and Dr Leo Papademetre and colleagues from the School of International Studies will receive funding to develop a set of resources for academic staff on self-reflection and intercultural learning.

Paauwe scoops SALA award

UniSA graduate and lecturer Deborah Paauwe has been selected as the South Australian Living Artist (SALA) monograph award recipient for 2004.

A book on her photographic work will be released next year. Paauwe is a graduate of UniSA's South Australian School of Art and a former Samstag scholar.

Graduation registration online

Eligible UniSA graduands can now apply to graduate online.

The new online process will streamline the delivery of graduation information, provide users with immediate confirmation of their chosen options, and automatically update their details on Student and Academic Services records.

For more details on accessing the service, go to www.enrol.unisa.edu.au/grad/logon.asp

Bursary winner

UniSA architecture and design PhD candidate Elizabeth Grant has been awarded the Australian Federation of University Women's Barbara Crase Bursary.

The \$2,500 bursary is one of 18 different bursaries, grants and prizes funded by the federation.

Awards for staff excellence

Nominations for the Vice Chancellor's Awards for General Staff Excellence are now open. Individuals or teams can be nominated for one of four categories: providing quality service, building bridges, working smarter/getting results, and leading change.

Applications close on October 13. For more information and nomination forms visit the website at www.unisa.edu.au/cha/awards/staffawards.htm

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Penny gives time online

by Thel Krollig

At a computer terminal on North Terrace in Adelaide, Penny Richards searches the web for the latest technology in online donations. The information she gathers will eventually be used in a United Nations fundraising campaign based in Kosovo.

She joins a volunteer in Germany who translates documents for an organisation servicing youth in Africa, and a woman in the UK concerned about children and poverty creating a web site for an organisation in Sri Lanka.



According to NetAid Online Volunteers, Penny is just one of thousands of volunteers sharing their time and expertise to help organisations that address issues and conditions in the developing world. These volunteers can help without having to leave their homes. They volunteer on weekends, in the evenings, on their lunch break, or whenever their schedules permit.

It ties in well with Penny's everyday work as an e-project officer for UniSA's International Office.

"I found the NetAid website surfing the web one night looking for information on computers for developing countries. And now, for just a few hours a week, I can make a real difference in a way I never thought possible," says Penny.

“My project leader, Babar, in Kosovo, emails me my tasks and I email back my results, it’s as simple as that. I know it’s not the adrenaline pumping action that you get in the field, but there is a strong feel-good element to what I am doing.

“I’ve found a way that I can give while I am living and working in Adelaide.”

Penny said her desire to volunteer for an organisation such as the UN came when she returned home from an overseas trip, the last leg spent traveling through South East Asia.

Since early 2000, NetAid, through a service managed by the UN has brought online volunteers and organisations in developing countries together through the largest database of online volunteering opportunities anywhere in the world.

If you would like to share some of your time and expertise with NetAid just logon to www.netaid.org or contact Penny Richards on (08) 8302 9051.

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Browser Briefs

by [Karen Williams](#)

You are what you eat

The first genetically modified commercial food crop has recently been given the go-ahead in Australia, which has caused consternation amongst consumers. You'll find an FAQ page on this site, along with information about other hot topics relating to food standards. Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (formerly ANZFA) provides a veritable banquet of information about food standards that apply to all foods produced or imported for sale in Australia and New Zealand. Their mission is to protect the health and safety of people in Australia and NZ through the maintenance of a safe food supply. There is information for the consumer about everything from infant formula products to MSG. Major features of the site include: consumer information, assistance for industry, recall information, media releases, fact sheets, and information about how the standards have developed. You can even subscribe to their free information service if you're so inclined. A brief description here doesn't do the site justice, but it's highly likely that whatever your food queries are, you'll find answers on this site.

www.foodstandards.gov.au/

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Classifieds

Advertising in the classifieds section is available to staff of UniSA. Email classifieds to unisa.news@unisa.edu.au.

For sale

Floral lounge suite 2 seater plus 2 armchairs absolute mint condition, hardly used \$850 ono Phone (08) 8302 0096

Mazda 929 1992/93 model, colour burgundy, excellent condition, leather interior, factory sunroof, 4 wheel steering, 140,000 km, \$17,500 ono. Contact Denise Christopher on (08) 8302 6407 – Underdale campus

Moving sale – large electric room heater with three level settings, log fire look electric room heater, brand new pizza maker, foot spa, net curtain drapes 2700 X 2350 mm drop. All at bargain prices.

Phone (08) 8332 7748 anytime

One owner Powerbook G3 \$ 999. Specifications: G3 266MHz, 4 GB HD, CD Drive, 14"screen, 56k internal infrared modem, dial online with infrared mobile, two expansion bays that accept modular accessories. Please call Ron Rowe on (08) 8388 7539 or email me at ron.rowe@bigpond.com

Trophy cabinet white, glass doors, mirror-backed \$80. Ideal for games room/sporting club. Phone Karen on (08) 8302 0096

Various – call Nadine for any of the following items on 8302 1092 or 0402 598 580 : Palm pilot portable keyboard (connection cord and software included) \$50; Sharp viewcam (12 X power zoom, 8mm camera, all cords and two batteries included) \$450; Dell Inspiron 3200 laptop computer (Win 98, 80 MB Ram, 4.5 GB HD, Pentium II with MMX, floppy and CD drive, 56K fax/modem, network card, carry case and Leximark Z33 col printer included) \$650

For rent

Greenhill (near Adelaide) – furnished bedsitter. Hills and city views. Suit visiting academic for several months or other temporary accommodation. Weekly and monthly rates. Contact Joe on 8302 3941 or 8309 3452 (evenings, weekends)

Victor Harbor 2br bch aptmnt in historic stone building. Sunlit living room, balcony, bbq, aircon, computer/internet, pool, minutes to beach, cafes. Linen/towels provided. Sleeps 4. \$140 per night (UniSA discount and weekly rates available). Phone 0414 239 784 email ingrid.day@unisa.edu.au

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Academic board

by [Peter Cardwell](#)
Executive Officer

The following was noted at the June 2003 meeting of the Academic Board.

Revision of quality assurance and improvement: programs, courses and teaching arrangements policy (A-35A)

The Acting Pro Vice Chancellor (Access and Learning Support), Assoc Prof Brenton Dansie, introduced proposed amendments to Policy A-35.A8: Quality Assurance and Improvement: Programs, Courses and Teaching Arrangements, which had been endorsed by Senior Management Group on 11 June 2003. The revisions, which were approved by Academic Board, will involve the incorporation of a requirement that all courses be evaluated in some way each time they are taught. There will also be a requirement that the quality performance of each program be monitored annually, which will include benchmarking against the Graduate Course Experience Questionnaire (GCEQ), and a comprehensive evaluation of at least 20 per cent of all programs each year. The changes were identified as part of the annual review process in 2003.

Revision of review policy (A-35B)

The Board approved amendments to Policy A-35.B5: Review. The revision involves the incorporation of a policy statement and procedures that take into account reviews by external bodies such as professional associations and accrediting and registering organisations. Following discussion, members of the Board also agreed to add nominated reviews of academic disciplines or groups of disciplines to the revised Policy.

Mitsui educational foundation scholarship

The Board agreed to the University's participation in the Mitsui Educational Foundation (MEF) Scholarship, which is awarded to eight undergraduate students from selected universities around Australia. The one-off Scholarship provides an opportunity for recipients to visit Japan for 18 days during November and December

in 2003. The objective of the award is to help develop and expand knowledge and friendship between the two countries, as well as to broaden the tertiary education of Australian students. The University of South Australia has been invited to participate in 2003.

Higher degree final notations

Amendments were approved to the Academic Regulations for Masters Degrees by Research and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees. The changes will overcome the current anomalous situation where research degree students do not receive a final notation on their record, unless they graduate, which has meant that there are a large number of incomplete student records on Medici.

At the conclusion of each Semester, the Dean of Graduate Studies will in future recommend to the Chairs of Divisional Research Management Committees the notation to be recorded against the record of non-enrolled research students. The new notations will be 'failed' (F), 'terminated' (T), 'suspended but examination process not completed' (SE) and 'suspended but not examined' (SNE). Research student candidates will be able to apply to the Dean for reinstatement to their research project provided they have had less than three years absence.

Program development

The following new programs were approved:

Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences

- Master of Visual Art and Design (Specialisation)

Division of Health Sciences

- Bachelor of Health Science (Acupuncture)
- Bachelor of Health Science (Naturopathy)
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Applied Science (Honours) (Specialisation)



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Research update

Below is a list of new grant and fellowship opportunities that have become available in the last month. If you would like details of other current grant or fellowship opportunities please visit our website:

Current grant opportunities

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/grants.htm>

Current international funding opportunities

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/international.htm>

Current research fellowship and award opportunities

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/fellowships.htm>

For further information please contact the Grants Officer on 8302 3954 or by email Natalie.Thorpe@unisa.edu.au

Australian Research Council

Linkage-international program - readvertised

www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/linkage/international/default.htm

Closing date ongoing

Linkage-projects round 2 – preliminary notification

www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/linkage_projects.htm

Application forms for Linkage-Projects Round 2 will be available on GAMS shortly.

Internal closing date 14 Nov 2003

External closing date 28 Nov 2003

Research networks – seed funding

www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/centres_networks/research_networks.htm

Closing date – ARC released the GAMS application form for seed-funding proposals at the end of July. The closing date will be at least six weeks after the forms were released.

CPA Australia

Research grant scheme

Provides funding for academic accounting researchers who have not yet developed a research profile sufficient to attract funding from other sources.

Small business research grant

Provides funding to researchers based in Australian universities for research into small business issues.

Frank Burke scholarship

CPA Australia is offering a scholarship of up to \$5,000 for research into the area of taxation/superannuation to academic accounting researchers based in Australian universities.

Application forms are available from Natalie Thorpe on 8302 3954.

Internal closing date 20 August 2003

External closing date 31 August 2003

Land and Water Australia

Futures research call

The Futures Arena seeks quantum leaps in sustainability and targets research taking longer term landscape perspectives to underpin long-term sustainability of Australia's natural capital base and rural landscapes.

www.lwa.gov.au/funding.asp

Internal closing date 17 August 2003

External closing date 29 August 2003

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

Enabling fund

This scheme aims to provide support for specific facilities and/or activities that will underpin and enhance the national health and medical research effort in Australia.

www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/general/enable.htm

Internal closing date 22 August 2003

External closing date 5 Sept 2003

Motor Neurone Research Institute of Australia

Research grants

Grants-in-aid towards research into motor neurone disease.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mndri/>

Internal closing date 15 August 2003

External closing date 29 August 2003

International funding opportunities

Australian-American Fulbright Commission

Fulbright postgraduate award in visual and performing arts

For graduates to undertake research or enter a full-time program of training and professional development to be accredited towards an Australian higher degree.

Fulbright postgraduate award in science and engineering

For applicants who wish to engage in research relevant to an Australian higher degree or to undertake an approved course of study for an American higher degree or equivalent.

Fulbright postgraduate award in engineering

For applicants who have completed an undergraduate degree in engineering wishing to undertake postgraduate studies in the United States.

www.fulbright.com.au

Internal closing date 16 August 2003

External closing date 31 August 2003

Australian Academy of Science

Grants for international collaboration in scientific research – re-advertised

Grants-in-aid for Australian researchers to undertake collaborative research in North America (USA, Canada, Mexico).

www.science.org.au/internat/index.htm

Internal closing date 5 Sept 2003 – North America (USA, Canada, Mexico)

External closing date 19 Sept 2003

Fellowship and award opportunities

Australian Academy of Science – awards and research support

Dorothy Hill Award, Fenner Medal, Frederick White Prize, Gottschalk Medal, Le Fevre Memorial Prize, Pawsey Medal, David Craig Medal, Hannan Medal.

Refer to website for details.

www.science.org.au/awards/awards.htm

Internal closing date 20 August 2003

External closing date 30 August 2003

Pharmacia Foundation Australia

Fellowship for 2004

Two or three fellowships will be awarded for 2004 for outstanding biomedical scientists wishing to establish a research career in Australia.

Internal closing date 19 August 2003

External closing date 26 August 2003

Department of Education, Science & Training

Malaysia-Australia Fellowship 2003-4

For an Australian postgraduate student or academic to study or pursue research in Malaysian public education institutions for up to 18 months.

Internal closing date 15 August 2003

External closing date 22 August 2003

Searching for a scholarship?

The Joint Academic Scholarships Online Network (JASON) is a national online system of postgraduate scholarships. Load your own profile and obtain regular updates.

www.jason.unimelb.edu.au/

Due to space restrictions, we are unable to provide full details of grants. Please refer to the website for further detail, or contact Natalie Thorpe on 8302 3954.

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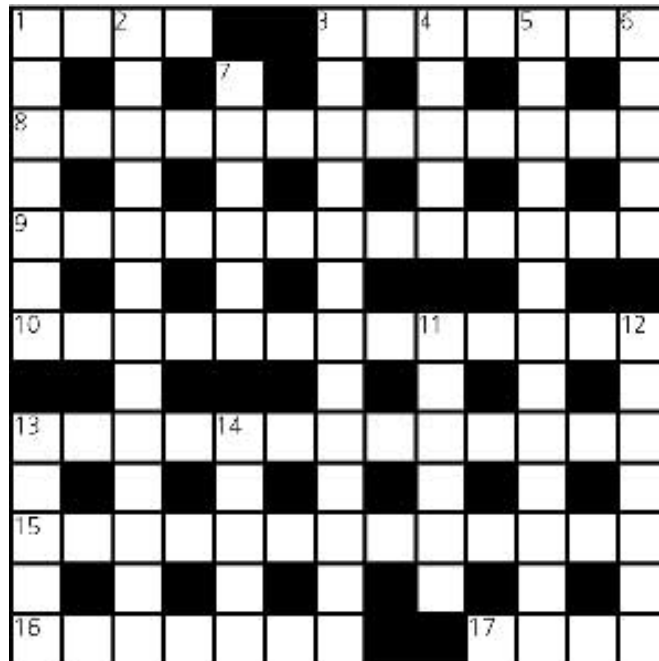
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Colgans Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

1. Part of foot exposed on island (4)
3. Plot overturning British PM was soundly obliterated (7)
8. Holiday outline includes being transported (9,4)
9. Direct scorn at theatre's opening by cutting fun feature (5,4,4)
10. A course about love and endearments (5,8)
13. Justice of high regard introduced new bishop (5,8)
15. Blondie's daughter almost vilifies people (4,9)
16. Bush fruit took off with it (4-3)
17. Indians' people-movers (4)

DOWN

1. On the list of endangered and protected fans (7)
2. Merchandise company approves supporting a series of measures leading to a conclusion (8,5)
3. Keep mum about evidence of smoking (6,4,3)
4. A Presbyterian grower of berries (5)

5. It's possibly on a sticker publication (13)
6. Hardly an air of joy despite finally understanding 'Inverse matrix' (5)
7. Has no feeling towards animal (6)
11. No small work in forge, and significant work on farm (6)
12. Woeful records exclude large group of nasty people (7)
13. One contending that one is covered by rights (5)
14. Apply deodorant ultimately to smelly body part (5)

Win a bottle of wine

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to Len Colgan at (08) 8302 5785 by Monday, August 25.

The winners of the July competition were Peter Hutchinson and John Stevens.

Solution

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

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. S: part of foot = inch S: island = inch
3. C: plot (bed) overturning (around backwards) British PM (Peel) S: soundly obliterated = bleeped
8. C: outline (contour) includes being transported (contains "ducted") S: holiday = conducted tour
9. C: theatre's opening (t) by cutting ('by' inside) fun (humour) feature (nose) S:

direct scorn = thumb your nose

10. C: a course (sweets) about love (around 'nothing') S: endearments = sweet nothings

13. C: justice (right) of high regard (revered) introduced new (contained 'N') S: bishop = right reverend

15. C: Blondie's daughter almost (Cookie, without 'e') vilifies (slanders) S: people = Cook Islanders

16. C: took off (rose) with it (hip) S: bush fruit = rose-hip

17. S: Indians = Utes S: people-movers = utes

Down

1. C: on the list of endangered and protected (in C.I.T.E.S.) S: fans = incites

2. C: company (Co) approves (nods) supporting (containing) series of measures (sum) leading to a conclusion (ergo) S: merchandise = consumer goods

3. C: evidence of smoking (butt on one's lip) S: keep mum = button one's lip

4. S: A Presbyterian = elder S: grower of berries = elder

5. C: it's possibly (pronoun) sticker (cement) S: publication = pronouncement

6. C: despite finally ('e') understanding (below) Inverse matrix (grid, inverted) S: hardly an air of joy = dirge

7. C: has no feeling (numb) towards (at) S: animal = numbat

11. S: no small work in forge (shoeing, without 'S') S: significant work on farm = hoeing

12. S: woeful (sad) records (lists) exclude large (remove 'L') S: group of nasty people = sadists

13. C: one (ace) is covered by rights ('r' at both ends) S: one contending = racer

14. C: deodorant ultimately (t) smelly (high) S: body part = thigh

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Online and on the move

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)



High speed wireless internet access now a reality at City West

UniSA is the first South Australian university to give students access to wireless internet connection across an entire university campus as part of its new push to deliver improved services to students.

For the increasing number of staff and students who choose a laptop as their computer of choice, it means they can access the internet and email services from anywhere on campus at anytime.

Installed at the City West campus, the high-speed, wireless 802.11g network represents the most sophisticated technology available in wireless networks, five times faster than most existing wireless services.

Director of UniSA's IT Services Paul Sherlock says they were looking for the right network product for the location and user needs.

"We had to meet some important criteria in building the network – security, ease of installation, quality, affordability and ease of management," he said.

"Despite the fact that City West is the University's newest campus, the big growth in international students numbers and the numbers of students working on campus throughout most of the day and into the evening, when many mature age or part time

students come on campus, we found we couldn't build enough computer pools to meet that growing demand.

“In a business sense it would have been an investment in old technologies to try to meet that demand by housing more and more PCs on campus. Wireless technology is the way of the future and this new network gives UniSA students a head start opportunity to experience the benefits and flexibility of the wireless communications environment.”

Sherlock said students could access all the online services provided by the University including, teaching and learning resources, online enrolment and library databases from the cafeteria, the courtyards, and even the Hindley Street cafes and pubs in the immediate vicinity of the campus.

“Students and staff will be able to have a cappuccino and scan the internet for the latest business or architectural research they need, and maybe even email their tutor to get an extension on an assignment.”

The system was successfully trialled with a group of 16 City West students and the response has been very positive. UniSA's goal is to introduce the same network to City East and other UniSA campuses as soon as possible.

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UniSA wins contract to clean up contaminated sites in Korea

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

UniSA researchers have scored a major contract to improve the way in which heavy metal contaminated sites are cleaned up in Korea.

The Commonwealth funded project, worth a quarter of a million dollars, was announced recently by the Federal Minister for Science, Peter McGauran.

Heavy metal contamination of soil and water is a critically important issue in the Australasia-Asia/Pacific region, with more than three million contaminated sites in that area alone, according to Professor Ravi Naidu, Director of UniSA's Australian Research Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation.

"These metal contaminated sites pose a serious risk to environmental, animal and human health. In some sites contaminants continuously leach from the unsaturated soil environment into groundwater, endangering the ground quality," Prof Naidu said.

One of the difficulties is the lack of cost effective and environmentally friendly technology for remediating metal contaminated sites.

UniSA has developed a process that uses a naturally occurring material already present in the ground to effectively bind contaminants such as cadmium, lead and zinc and immobilise them in the soil.

"Once immobilised, these pollutants do not leach from the soil into groundwater, are not taken up by plants and if in the form of dust that is ingested, are not released in the human gut," Professor Naidu said.

"We are bringing samples of contaminated soil from Korea to our lab to see what type and concentration of metal contaminants the soil has, and what proportion of the contaminants present in the soil are in free form. It is this free form, which can potentially leach and contaminate groundwater, that we especially want to bind with this material. We will look at the chemistry of the contaminants in the presence of

naturally occurring materials, optimise the system and then transfer our technology back to Korea.

“The naturally occurring material could be used in its current form but by modifying it slightly we can enhance its capacity to bind a greater range of pollutants than is possible with the natural form.

“We are the only ones worldwide using this material. It is cutting edge research that can lead to new technologies with commercial opportunities that will be beneficial for the University.

“Our researchers are doing this work on behalf of Ipoh Pacific Ltd, and with Korean business partner, Cheil Entech Co Ltd. If we can demonstrate success with Korea, it will open up a huge market for this material, not only in Australia, but internationally,” Prof Naidu said.

The joint project has been established through the Australia-Korea Pilot Industrial Technology Cooperation Fund, which works to support Australian-Korean Research and development with a focus on commercial outcomes. All of the research is being conducted at UniSA’s Australian Research Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation. The Centre was chosen because it is leading remediation research internationally, with its director recognised as a world authority in the field.

Established in January 2003, the Centre is also a world leader on research into arsenic, which has claimed more than 10,000 lives in West Bengal, India and Bangladesh. UniSA scientists with expert knowledge on the life cycle of arsenic have developed a similar material to that used for metal contaminants for remediation of arsenic contaminated sites in Bangladesh. Senator John Hill, the Minister for the Environment, has been invited to open the Centre, which will be officially launched on August 29.

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E-book trial planned

Masters students in Hong Kong will be some of the first UniSA students to trial the use of e-books to access their course readings and study guides next year.

The trial, which will see 12 students in the MA (Communication Management) program taught by the School of Communication, Information and New Media, provided with e-books loaded with the material for two courses, will help UniSA evaluate the viability of introducing the 'e-reader' on a wider scale.



Dean of Teaching and Learning for the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, Dr Ingrid Day, says the benefits of using e-books instead of hard-copy files are numerous.

"They help to overcome offshore copyright issues, they are portable, and they have the potential to save money in printing and postage costs," she said.

E-readers can be updated via the internet when required, and users can annotate readings but cannot copy and paste.

The e-book trial follows a pilot study conducted by UniSA's Dr Kurt Lushington which found that non-computer literate people coped well using e-books, preferring them to

the traditional hard-copy reader.

Dr Lushington says that e-books' initial failure to live up to their hype was due to the fact that the first e-books were not universally compatible.

“The first e-books were produced by publishing companies and could only be used with their specific texts, but that is changing and we now have e-books available that are more widely compatible,” he said.

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Enhancing UniSA's web presence

If you have visited the UniSA website at www.unisa.edu.au in recent days you would have noticed more than a few changes.

The first three levels of the site's information architecture

have been redesigned as part of an ongoing effort to maximise the effectiveness and accessibility of UniSA's web environment.

Launched on August 6, the corporate web redevelopment has been 18 months in the planning and is a collaboration between the University's Marketing and Development Unit, the Flexible Learning Centre, and Information Strategy and Technology Services.

Approximately 1000 new pages are now online following a rigorous market research, useability testing, topic sorting and graphic design testing process.

The new pages and templates for web authors were developed with ease of navigation and functionality as top priorities. Graphics have been kept to a minimum (important in rural and local areas where bandwidth speeds are slower), while special efforts have been made to ensure the site meets Priority 1 of the World Wide Web Consortium accessibility standards.

Director of the Marketing and Development Unit, Alan Brideson, says the launch was just the beginning of an ongoing process.

"Because the University web has grown almost organically since 1995 when it was first established, the site was not developed with the bigger picture or a strategic approach in mind," he says.



“This is a refresh that will allow us to build on a shared understanding in a systematic way.”

With approximately 300 web authors across the university, the task of changing over all of the web pages (estimated to be more than 500,000) to fit the new templates will be no simple task – but web authors are being offered support and training to make the transition as smooth as possible.

For more information on the corporate web redevelopment, visit <http://www.unisa.edu.au/staff/web/>

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Beats Per Minute take out top honours at business week

by [Thel Krollig](#)

It took only ten Beats Per Minute (BPM) to earn the right to defend SA's title as the National Champions of Australian Business Week 2002 (ABW) when they competed at SA's 2003 ABW competition recently.



Ten people, that is, in the team BPM, who were victorious over a field of seven teams competing from all over the state.

BPM performed consistently over the entire week, under the strong leadership of its CEO, Richard Warneke of Mercedes College. The team included Stephanie Bittoto, St Dominic's Priory College, Kate Brook, University Senior College, Dwaylene Brown, Ashlee Wilson, and Ana Novosel, Coober Pedy Area School, Natalie Caruso, Seaton High School, Wes Parker, Urrbrae Agricultural High School, Cameron Price-Austin, Minlaton District School and John Tamazos, Pulteney Grammar School.

"This team showed it could think on its feet, work well together in a pressure cooker environment and meet demanding deadlines," said SA ABW program director, and lecturer in accounting and information systems at UniSA, Gerard Stone.

Seventy Year 11 and 12 students enjoyed a week-long challenging business experience at the UniSA's City East Campus from working in teams to manage and run a major hotel business that operates within a computer simulation of the national economy.

Students, in teams of 10, formed a company, appointed a CEO, and developed and launched a new product with a written plan, promotional video, trade display and

business pitch.

They learn about marketing, finance, law, human resources, media, management and written and oral presentations through lectures presented by academics and business people and are guided by business mentors.

ABW is a hothouse for the state's future business leaders according to Stone.

“By running their own simulated company they get invaluable hands-on experience, which is of real benefit as they embark on their careers,” he said.

ABW Enterprise Education aims to develop an enterprising culture in schools so that young people are equipped with the skills to create and manage personal, community, business and work opportunities.

The programs were developed by a partnership of business, schools and universities for high school students. They are now running in all six Australian states and are offered at the school, state and national level. From 1992 to 2003, more than 48,000 students participated in and benefited from ABW programs.

UniSA will be hosting the National Competition here in SA this year for only the second time in the history of the competition.

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Fringe dwellers go international

by Cathy Hughes

'The place of care – Rural human services on the fringe' was the title of the keynote address given by Associate Professor Brian Cheers to an international audience in Canada last month.

Prof Cheers, from UniSA's Whyalla campus, made his presentation to the International Rural Human Services Conference in Halifax, Canada, which was attended by 200 delegates from around the world including Canada, Australia, USA, Thailand, Russia, Sweden, UK, Israel and Africa.

"The keynote address was designed to bring together my perspectives about the provision of rural human services, community narratives and rural community development issues," said Prof Cheers.

Prof Cheers said he was extremely pleased with the feedback he received, particularly about how successfully his address provided a valuable framework for the rest of the two day conference.

"You always hope as a key note speaker to provide a point of reference and inspiration to delegates and the conference organisers."

"It really was a great conference...everyone raved about it, and discussions are already occurring for a follow-up conference either in the United States or Canada."

Prof Cheers was accompanied by two PhD students that he supervises - Sarah Wendt from the Barossa Valley and Chris Colgan from Murray Bridge, who also made presentations on their research work.

"Whyalla was extremely well represented with six papers presented, highlighting the campus' research and practice in relation to rural human service provision, community development, regional development, rural social work and rural sociology," said Prof Cheers.

Prof Cheers said the outcomes were very significant for the campus with discussions already occurring about future research partnerships, teaching exchanges, and the prospects of

international students studying in Whyalla at a PhD level as well as visiting professors from England, Canada and India.

He also said that papers from the conference will also be published in a special issue of the international Rural Social Work journal, published by the Whyalla Campus.

"This campus is seen as a world leader in rural social work and human services research and education. We are seen as being up there as a leading center of excellence."

Professor Cheers, Wendt and Colgan also made presentations to a second conference – organised by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work – and gave a full colloquium to academics at the University of Calgary.

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Flexible learning Thai-style

by Dr Barry Elsey

Dr Barry Elsey supervises a number of students living overseas as part of his work as a senior lecturer at UniSA's International Graduate School of Management. Here he talks about his experience with one such student, Siripol Yodmuangcharoen, a senior public servant in Thailand.

Siripol Yodmuangcharoen is Director-General of the Department of Internal Trade in Thailand. He is a very senior public servant and a leading authority on the export of rice to overseas markets, responsible for crafting policies to enhance export performance,

particularly for high quality Thai rice, where about 60 per cent of the farming population derive a living. Because of the economic importance of the commodity he is in direct contact with members of the government, often on a daily basis.

The photograph (right) was taken in the operations room, which monitors the production of rice in various regions and the movement of prices. I was invited to see for myself the 'nerve centre' and to discuss his research portfolio for the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), which focuses on the formation of a strategic alliance among Thai rice exporters and other stakeholders. It would increase economic efficiencies if exporters were able to combine together and rationalise the costs of transportation and warehousing. His research is concerned with the practical problem of how to achieve such collaboration and business outcomes.

The learning problem for Siripol Yodmuangcharoen and myself is how to change his way of thinking, from a very experienced policy-maker to that of the academic researcher. Becoming acquainted with the research-based literature is one step and



designing an action learning approach, to engage rice exporters in seriously considering forming a strategic alliance, is another step.

But something else is required. Following in the footsteps of well-received learning theory, adults learn best when they can relate the subject to their own interests. In this case that is not the problem. Rather it is the inhibiting effect of trying to be 'too academic' and follow the rules of research and writing for publication. It is acknowledged that that is the ultimate goal but the means of getting there has to be modified. The key that unlocks the door is to get him to think of his research as unfolding a story, in which he tells the reader all he knows about the challenges of exporting rice and increasing its net value to the Thai economy. This was the 'cognitive click' we were both seeking.

More specifically, I have encouraged him to write his opening paragraphs in the first person, ignoring academic conventions. After all, he is the widely recognised knowledge resource and chief policy-maker, representing the Thai government at the highest levels both with local rice producers and in overseas export markets. His perceptions and interpretation of what is happening to the vital export commodity has the power to persuade the stakeholders. In addition, he has command of the salient facts and figures to underpin policy recommendations. Unlocking his knowledge is essential if the research portfolio is to be grounded in his experience and insights. Then we can pool our thinking and design a research approach that will engage rice exporters in thinking about and maybe agreeing to form a strategic alliance, the first for the industry in Thailand. This is the stuff of the DBA, knowledge for practical problem solving.

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UniSA to host famous collections conference

What do Ned Kelly, Matthew Flinders and Winston Churchill have in common? They all feature on the program of the *Famous People, Famous Collections* conference, to be hosted in Adelaide by UniSA from September 14 to 17.

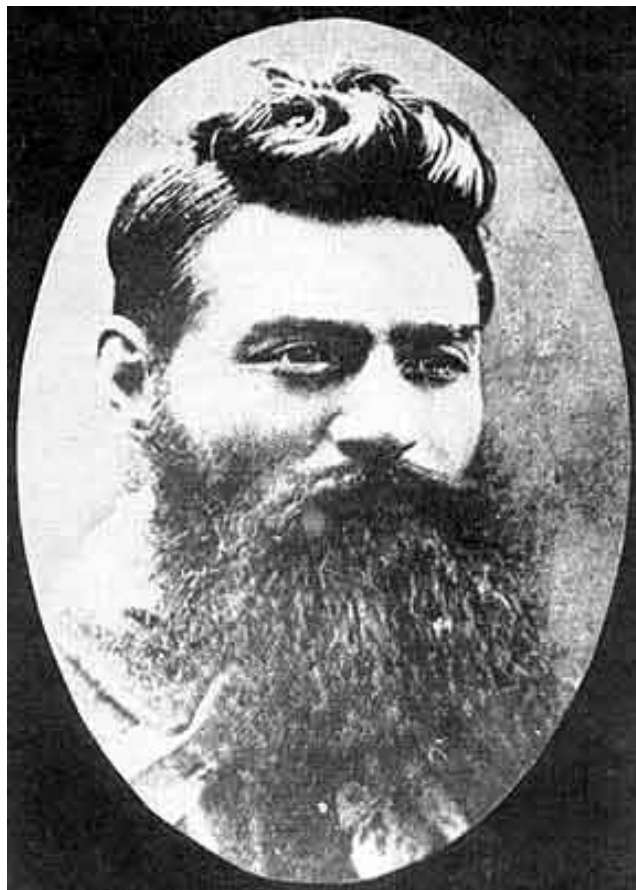
Presented by the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library, the conference will focus on the issues and challenges involved in developing person-specific libraries, archives and collections.

Special guests at the conference will include former Prime Minister Bob Hawke (who will officially open the event) and keynote speaker Phil Reed, director of the Cabinet War Rooms in Whitehall (the secret underground wartime headquarters of Winston Churchill.)

Other highlights to look forward to include author and biographer Blanche d'Alpuget's presentation on the 'dark ages' of research (ie: pre-internet), and Jock Murphy from the State Library of Victoria, who will talk on the topic 'Ned Kelly Now.'

Other speakers will come from the National Library of Australia, National Library of New Zealand, State Library of New South Wales and National Archives of Australia.

The conference will also feature several book launches, including the new Pluto Press book, *The Hawke Government: a retrospective* (edited by Susan Ryan and Troy Bramston).



For further details, including registration, contact conference convenor Jenni Jeremy on (08) 8302 0318 or email jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au or visit the website at www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au/library

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Pit stop to men's health

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

The image of the strapping young fire fighter with sweat dripping from charcoal-stained pecs has been swooned over in the fantasies of countless hot-blooded women (and men for that matter) since time immemorial ... or at least since getting off your kit for calendar fundraisers became popular.



But while this stereotype may have given pleasure to many, it's not necessarily an accurate reflection of the physical and mental state of our fire fighters, who, as 30 UniSA students discovered in July, come in all shapes, sizes and ages, and have varying fitness levels and health concerns.

As part of the School of Health Sciences' health promotion course, the students were involved in testing the fitness levels of male fire fighters at the Metropolitan Fire Service, construction workers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and mental health workers at Glenside Hospital.

Using the Pit Stop Service Manual, a men's health check list first developed by the Gascoyne Public Health Unit in WA, the students tested the men on a range of fitness indicators – from the 'chassis check' (waist circumference), to 'tyre pressure' (blood pressure), 'exhaust' (smoking), and 'fuel additives' (alcohol).

UniSA senior lecturer Dr Murray Drummond says the exercise – a collaboration with the Royal Adelaide Hospital's Health Promotion Unit – was all about getting men to talk about health on their terms.

“Studies have shown that men tend not to seek help for physical and mental health issues until it really becomes a problem, so the Pit Stop Service is a way of trying to come to men with information and support, with the ultimate aim being to reduce incidence of preventable illness.”

“It’s given the students the chance to gain hands-on experience, while offering a service to the community.”

Third year applied science (human movement) student Caralyn Pedler said the experience was definitely worthwhile. “When you’re sitting in a classroom you just don’t get the same kind of experience that we’ve had today, working with people face to face,” she said. “It’s been a great way to learn.”

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McKay calls for water policy reform

Director of UniSA's Water Policy and Law Group, Professor Jennifer McKay, has called for the establishment of a national body to guide water management for the benefit of all Australians.

Speaking at a workshop on the institutional issues in water resource allocation for Australia and India, held in Beechworth in July, Prof McKay said it was about time the states and water utilities got together to agree on a set of water management objectives.

While commending a reform process which has seen the number of water utilities in Australia cut from thousands to hundreds, Prof McKay says the water bodies are still too fragmented and bound up in past processes.

"We need to take the next step and get the utilities together and talking about the way they measure and monitor their environmental processes," she says.

"I'm saying that water utilities should remain the property of the states but that the laws that they administer should be identical to one another."

"We need a new generation of water managers who are environmental managers, not just people who build dams."

The Beechworth workshop, presented by UniSA, Latrobe University and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), brought together water policy figures from around Australia and India as part of an ongoing commitment between the two countries to share knowledge on water policy.

Following the workshop, Prof McKay took visiting water policy experts Professor Vasant Gandhi (from the Indian Institute of Management) and Professor R Maria Saleth (of the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka) on a tour which took in key water management hot spots, from the Hume Dam at the beginning of the Murray River, to the Murray mouth at Goolwa.

“India has common law and state systems similar to Australia’s, and would also benefit from a national approach to water management,” says Prof McKay.

“We’re not saying the Australian system is perfect and India should copy it, but we can say these are some of the problems we’ve evaluated and hopefully you can learn from our experience.

“We’re looking forward to continuing the dialogue between Australia and India on this issue.”

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A home of one's own

by [Kate Leeson and Alison Mackinnon](#)

Hawke Centre study into SA home builders' club

How many people know about a group of dedicated home builders who in the straitened circumstances after World War II formed a cooperative to build their own – and each others' – houses? Much more will be known after an interdisciplinary



group of researchers at the Hawke Research Institute have finished delving into the archives of the club.

Researchers are investigating the objectives, operation, products and impact of a club founded as a cooperative where members untrained in building helped each other design and build houses. In the club's 20 year history from 1945 –1965 it completed approximately 400 houses across Adelaide.

In these days of heightened expectations of ensuites and double garages it is salutary to remember that houses and materials were hard to come by in postwar South Australia. The 'comfortable fifties', as we now think of them, did not always appear so to those not far removed from wartime privations – and fearful of the Cold War.

The research team has collected information from home builders, some of whom still proudly live in their purpose-built houses. With the assistance of the Oral History Association of Australia (SA Branch) they collected interviews and photographs covering construction methods, house layouts, fittings and furnishings, usual and unusual design features, and garden layouts.

The research team includes Don Langmead, Christine Garnaut, Gini Lee and Julie Collins (all from the Centre for Settlement Studies), as well as Jean Duruz, Julie Collins and Alison Mackinnon.

The project has been supported by UniSA's Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, an Australian Technology Network grant and a community grant from the Mitcham Council, and the team is now seeking further funding.

A number of papers have been written so far on a variety of topics, from the life of Bill Ellenby, who provided the inspiration behind the club, to the design and architecture of SAHBC homes and the intertwining of narratives of family and housing in Australia's social history.

The research team is now hoping to study postwar home building nationally and eventually to produce a book that will highlight the unique contribution of the SA Home Builders' Club to the state's social and built environment and also reveal the colourful and endearing stories behind the club's success.

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Volunteers sought for research

The proverb may claim that 'you can't teach old dogs new tricks' but a UniSA research project currently underway aims to find out how the experience of life may indeed make older people real experts.

In a new way of looking at ageing, UniSA researchers are turning the spotlight on aspects of positive development that occur throughout the lifespan with a special focus on mapping thinking processes.

The researchers are seeking volunteers to take part in a study looking at how thinking changes with age and whether the links between the things that we know become increasingly complex.

They are looking for two groups – people between the ages of 18 and 30 and people over the age of 65. Data will be collected from one-on-one interviews to be held at UniSA's Magill campus.

Participants will be asked to complete several tests and will be offered \$20 for their contribution.

People interested in participating should contact Dr Rob Ranzijn on (08) 8302 4468 or rob.ranzijn@unisa.edu.au or Bridget Garnham on (08) 8302 4327 or bridget.garnham@unisa.edu.au for further information.

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Flexible delivery in crisis mode

Managing the impact of SARS on offshore teaching

The recent outbreak of SARS across Asia had the potential to impact severely on the extensive offshore teaching activities of UniSA involving thousands of students.

However, a close collaboration between staff from the Flexible Learning Centre and the Division of Business and Enterprise put in place a series of contingency measures to ensure that teaching could continue.

The Division of Business and Enterprise offers a range of programs delivered at partner institutions throughout Asia, including five undergraduate business programs in collaboration with The School of Continuing Education of the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU).

Already, these programs are offered to students based in Hong Kong in a flexible mode, using a combination of high quality online self-study materials delivered through UniSAnet, reading booklets, CDROMs or online readings, regular local tutorial sessions and intensive face-to-face teaching in blocks in Hong Kong.

However, with the outbreak of SARS, serious threats were posed to these courses. First, in response to government health warnings, all travel by University staff to Hong Kong was cancelled, meaning that no face-to-face teaching blocks could take place. Secondly, at the height of the outbreak HKBU was closed and students were not able to come together for tutorial sessions or even examinations.

In response to these threats, innovative flexible teaching strategies were devised such that the core teaching and assessment activities could continue. A team from the FLC and the Division developed a contingency plan when the threat of SARS was first discovered. At the time travel bans were put in place, the strategy was able to be actioned, resulting in minimal disruption to offshore teaching activities. Key aspects included:

- Recording video lectures at the FLC audio-visual production suite for

distribution to students in Hong Kong using DVDs or via the internet. The suite can produce broadcast-quality sound and video as well as digital post-production and internet-based streaming of audio and video.

- The use of a new internet based assignment submission and marking tool called AssignIT. AssignIT was designed and built by UniSA as a mechanism for students to submit assignments and receive marked assignments via the internet. AssignIT dramatically reduces the turn-around time in marking, leading to more efficient academic process and more immediate feedback for students.
- Using alternative examination strategies and utilising the internet to deliver exams. As students were unable to congregate in groups at HKBU campus, it was necessary to establish protocols for the administration of examinations to students working by themselves at home.

The use of the internet and the development of flexible delivery strategies was an essential factor in the success of our continued teaching at HKBU during the SARS crisis. Despite some difficulties and inevitable stresses caused by the short time lines necessary in contingency planning, feedback from staff and students indicate the project's overall success. Through the close collaboration of the Flexible Learning Centre and the Division of Business and Enterprise, major disruption to teaching was averted.

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Online learning under the spotlight

Online learning may have been touted as the way of the future for tertiary education, but it should not be embraced at the expense of other teaching methods. That's one of the messages to emerge from a UniSA study into flexible delivery and online learning in the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

While the study, *Professional development needs of contract and casual staff in the area of flexible delivery*, undertaken by UniSA's Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work, looked particularly at TAFE staff members' experience of delivering online education, key researcher Dr Tom Stehlik says that many of the findings are also applicable to universities.

"In both the VET and university sectors, online learning is assumed to be the way of the future, but there's a strong message coming through saying that students are still interested in human contact," Dr Stehlik says. "Social processes are often more effective ways to learn rather than just interfacing with a machine."

Researchers spoke to educators at six VET sites in SA and Queensland, and found that while flexible and online delivery teaching methodologies were prevalent throughout the sector, the extent to which they were utilised varied – with only about 10 per cent of courses being delivered entirely online.

And while online learning lends itself to some subjects (such as IT and business) there are other areas – like construction and hospitality – where there is no substitute for practical, hands-on lessons.

"It's really hard to transfer a lot of the hands-on aspects of learning to the online environment," says Dr Stehlik. "For example we still need to send teaching students into classrooms for their practicum experience, so I doubt whether degrees such as education or nursing will ever be available entirely online."

"Online learning has a lot of advantages, allowing for greater flexibility and in many cases bringing down costs for education providers, but it should be seen as another teaching delivery method that is part of a whole range of methods. People have

different learning styles and ways of taking in information, and there will always be a significant social aspect to learning.”

The study also scrutinised the professional development opportunities available to help get staff up to speed in the online learning environment. While formal professional development opportunities were noted to be lacking for the majority of casual staff, Dr Stehlik says many educators were effectively making use of the internet, often through informal networks by asking for help from more IT-proficient colleagues and peers.

The study was funded through the Flexible Learning Research Program, an initiative within the Australian Flexible Learning Framework for the National Vocational Education and Training System. A research report will be published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research in September.

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Managing depression in the workplace

by **Greg Thompson**

Depression is often incomprehensible to those who have not experienced it – many people ask why the person can't just 'get on with it' or 'cheer up'. It is a complex disorder which has the capacity to impact on every aspect of the sufferer's life and those around them.

One of the most common mental health problems, it is estimated that one in eight men and one in four women will experience depression in their life time.

Depression in the workplace can manifest itself in a variety of ways, including absenteeism, decreased productivity, morale problems, lack of cooperation, safety risks, increased numbers of accidents, and alcohol and drug abuse.

As a supervisor or work colleague there are ways in which you can help. We suggest the following:

- Don't try to diagnose the problem yourself
- Learn about sources of help –
UniSA has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), offering a range of services including free and confidential counselling for staff and their immediate family members
- Discuss behaviour changes and refer to the EAP provider if there are concerns
- Recognise that once diagnosed, a depressed person may need some flexibility to accommodate treatment
- Severe depression may be life threatening to the person but rarely to others
- Take comments or threats about 'life not being worth living' seriously

What are the symptoms of depression? If you notice someone suffering from five or more of the following over a period of time they may be experiencing serious depression:

- Persistent sad or depressed mood

- A significant loss of interest in ordinary activities
- Eating disturbances – weight gain or loss
- Ongoing fatigue
- Sleep disturbances – too much or too little sleep
- Agitation, restlessness, slowing down
- Difficulty concentrating
- Difficulty remembering, making decisions
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness and helplessness
- Ongoing thoughts about suicide and death.

Milder forms of depression can include low self-esteem, feeling helpless, hopeless or pessimistic, problems sleeping, and low energy or fatigue.

There are very effective forms of intervention. People do not have to continue experiencing the discomfort of depression. Please contact your Employee Assistance Program provider, Davidson Trahaire, on 1300 360 364 for further information or assistance.

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Our People - Elspeth McInnes

I reckon learning is an exciting way of life and I feel privileged to work in a space that enables and requires me to extend my understanding and knowledge base.

My mental picture of learning moments is of a Leunig cartoon where the person is

adrift in a small boat, having cast off from the pier of 'things I thought I knew' and is sailing bravely into the unknown of 'things I'm finding out'. Like all exploration of new territory it's scary and exhilarating at the same time.

I joined UniSA's School of Education teaching sociology in the Early Childhood Education degree last year, so I am a 'new kid' on the block. I am still finding my way through the labyrinth of websites, committees and inductions of the corporate entity, but have taken quickly to the manicured parklands and diversity of birdlife at Magill campus.

The University has been a change of pace and locus of activity from my previous incarnation, working part-time as the executive officer of the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children, as well as studying for my doctorate.

I was introduced to NCSMC through my PhD research into single mothers' transitions into single parent households and the ways in which they negotiated housing, parenting, income and community life.

The significance of the presence or absence of trauma and abuse in respondents' lives became a central point of comparison in the study. The experiences of single mother families who had always lived in safety, compared to those who had survived abuse and trauma dramatically defined to me the fundamental importance of human rights to safety.



Violence reduction and prevention, response and recovery are central concerns of mine, along with socio-economics and the intersections of gender, poverty and cultural marginalisation.

Since I came to work at UniSA I have become the convenor of NCSMC and also serve on the Executive of the Australian Council of Social Services Board. These roles continue to inspire and inform my research, education and community support role in the University.

Progressive policy advocacy and reform for equity, human rights and social justice are my main motivators and it is a pleasure to work in a university environment where these values are explicitly supported in its mission statement.

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Participants sought for chronic illness study

Researchers are calling for people with chronic illness to take part in a study aiming to develop understandings about how people who have a long term health condition can learn to incorporate the illness into their lives and move forward.

Approximately 200 people with chronic illness are being sought to take part in the study, *Describing transition in chronic illness*, a joint project between the Socially Sustainable Health Research Centre (SSHRC) at UniSA's School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Research Unit of the Royal District Nursing Service.

Participants will be invited to share details of their experiences with illness and ways of coping via an email discussion group.

Post doctoral research fellow, Dr Debbie Kralik, who will undertake the three year project in collaboration with Professor Tina Koch and Dr Kay Price, says the study aims to progress current understandings about illness transitions.

"When people are first confronted by the challenges imposed by a chronic condition, they usually experience 'extraordinariness', where they have difficulty coming to terms with the intrusion of the illness," Dr Kralik says.

"Over time most people learn strategies to cope better and regain control of their lives as the illness becomes an ordinary part of life. This study will look closely at those transitions, so we can better assist people who are living with chronic illness.

"The understandings emerging about transitions in chronic illness are of paramount importance for nursing because we contend that facilitation of transition is pivotal to the promotion of self-care management of chronic illness."

The research project is being funded to the tune of \$225,000 by the Australian Research Council and has been granted ethical approval.

Kralik invites men and women over 18 years who are living with a long term illness or condition who may be interested in participating in this study to contact her by email

dkralik@bigpond.net.au

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Canadian scholar reveals the magic of maths

There must be something special about Professor Jonathan Borwein. In a world where the study of mathematics is dwindling, this Canadian professor of maths manages to attract more research dollars to his university than any other professor.

He is the Shrum Chair of Science, Canada Research Chair in IT at the Simon Fraser University in British

Columbia, and he has been in Adelaide, in part, to talk up some important mathematical connections.

And somewhat ironically, it is the passion with which he talks about maths that gets you in. In an instant he reels off the incredible powers of maths to benefit humankind. He makes the right connections.

“It is maths that is a key driver in the unravelling of the human genome, in the development of new mobile phones with colour screens and moving pictures, in the computer generated mastery of the film Toy Story and in a host of sciences including cutting edge developments in medicine and computer technology,” Professor Borwein says.

“It is a very exciting time to be involved in modern applied mathematics.”

Working with Professor Phil Howlett from UniSA’s School of Mathematics and Statistics, Borwein is on a mission to revitalise maths.



Borwein's key message is that we need to be smarter in the ways we teach maths.

“Middle class children will never suffer as much from having an OK to average English teacher as they will from having an average maths teacher, because the use of language is reinforced in every aspect of their lives,” Borwein says.

“Unfortunately the exciting relationships between maths and the world are not often as clear or as well communicated as they should be.

“We need to overcome the notion that to teach better we need to add to the curriculum – sometimes it is not about adding more, it is about teaching with creativity and confidence. I think part of that is giving teachers the confidence to allow very clever maths students to forge ahead.”

Jonathan Borwein has been in Australia on a research visit and has been assisting UniSA's Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics in its efforts to establish itself as a Centre of Excellence for the application of mathematics in the solution of real problems in the 21st century. He has also been providing insights into the Canadian research success through its Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences and MITACS.

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