



UniSA News

April 2006

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



MATES delivers on healthcare

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MATES delivers on healthcare

by Geraldine Hinter

Australia's war veterans are experiencing fewer hospital admissions resulting from medication-related problems following a regular medicines review and feedback program run by UniSA's Quality Use of Medicines and Pharmacy Research Centre.

The Centre is partnering the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in the Veterans' MATES (Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services) program to look at ways of using information available on patterns of healthcare delivered to veterans to improve their health outcomes and quality of life.



This is a truly national program where UniSA is the lead agency contracting with major organisations including key experts from around the country involved in the quality use of medicines, according to the Centre's director, Professor Andy Gilbert.

"Under tight security and in compliance with privacy requirements, our Centre has access to a unique database of veterans nationwide – that's rare even in world terms," Prof Gilbert said.

"We are using the database to conduct drug utilisation studies or studies that identify veterans with certain conditions, or particular issues, and the medication being prescribed for them. We regularly write to doctors and pharmacists, giving specific feedback about individual veterans and include additional information that might be useful in managing veterans in their care. We also write to veterans including relevant information about their healthcare that we suggest they discuss with their doctor and pharmacist.

"Where veterans routinely take five or more different medicines, we order a home medicines review where the doctor, pharmacist and veteran work together to make sure that veterans get the best result from the medicines they are taking.

"The effect of the prescriber intervention and feedback program has been more than a four-fold increase in home medicines reviews being delivered to veterans," Prof Gilbert said.

"We know from our studies that these reviews help to keep veterans out of hospital and resolve a lot of their medication-related problems.

"Australia has about 140,000 medication-related hospital admissions each year and for people over 70 years, it's about one in three emergency hospital admissions. This is very relevant to veterans, whose average age is between 81 and 82 years."

The program delivers annual savings of about \$150 per review undertaken for each veteran, usually in reduced hospital admissions or visits. But the biggest benefit, according to Prof Gilbert, is the increased confidence of veterans in using medicines properly and improved knowledge about medicines.

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From the Vice Chancellor

The eighth annual conference of the Australian Technology Network has just concluded. During 2005 the ATN, UniSA, Curtin, RMIT, UTS and QUT proved to be a powerful alliance in the policy debate in higher education. The 2006 conference, which brought together senior staff from all five universities for two days of discussions and planning, underlined how much the alliance has matured.

Formed more than a decade ago, the ATN was the first formal alliance of Australian universities with shared histories and common purposes. Since then, three other groupings have emerged. The advantage of the ATN is that our history of interaction and, more recently, working together systematically, has built trust and respect. This means we are ready to share confidential information and to speak with one voice on critical issues. It means too that government is ready to provide us with funding for national projects, large Australian organisations are seeking to partner with us on major projects, and international groupings of like institutions are approaching us to form alliances.



As we looked at what we had achieved in 2005 we agreed that our capacity to work together to adopt a shared position on the details of the proposed Research Quality Framework had been our greatest achievement. By working together we have been able to prepare our institutions for the possible changes and to influence the policy debate. While that debate is by no means over as the historically privileged institutions manoeuvre for maintenance of their advantages, our work together in 2005 has prepared us for the next stage. The ATN can mount a powerful argument for the critical importance of the social and economic impact of research being taken as seriously as its acceptance by the academy.

Underlying many of our discussions was a concept with which Professor Greg Craven of Curtin University challenged us on the first day. He argued that it was particularly critical at present for the ATN universities to conceptualise a notion of institutional diversity which went beyond the restricted categories canvassed in the current Australian debate. He suggested that "Nelsonian" diversity has evolved to mean differentiation into three tiers of institutions and said, "If there is one basic policy challenge for the Network, it... is to persuade the new Minister that there is more to diversity than a crude ranking, and that difference is a complex virtue, rather than a simple sorting mechanism".

Presentations throughout the conference reinforced our sense that in a period of policy "churn" and rapid change, there are opportunities for positioning and repositioning both of the ATN and each of its institutions. The opportunities will come if we use our now established capacity to speak with one voice on important issues. However, we will need to have things to say – we need to be major contributors to the policy debate. If Greg Craven is right, and I suspect he is, we need to bring on the debate about what a diverse higher education system means in Australia; how such a system can serve the country's future needs; and, most importantly, what universities like ours have to offer.

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In Brief

Smith UniSA's new Pro Chancellor

Mr Peter Smith has been appointed the first Pro Chancellor at UniSA. The University Council recently confirmed the appointment after legislative changes to the UniSA Act. Smith has been an active member of the University Council for several years and is known as a dedicated supporter of the University in many circles. His new title will strengthen his ambassadorial role for the University within the broader community, both nationally and internationally. Formerly managing director of British Aerospace Australia, Smith is now a private consultant with the defence industry and continues to operate his own broad business interests. Announcing the new position, Chancellor David Klingberg said Pro Chancellor Smith was a man of vast experience and skill whose networks and expertise will continue to be of enormous benefit to the University.

Staff promotions

The University Council and Academic Board have formally approved recommendations from the senior promotions committee and the divisional promotions committees that the following staff be promoted to the following positions as listed. Research Professor – Professor Brian Cheers; Associate Professor – Associate Professor Kurt Lushington; Associate Professor Jonathan Buckley; Associate Research Professor – Associate Professor Jonas Addai-Mensah.

Graduations honour UniSA leaders

The last week of March saw more than 4700 students graduate from UniSA at ceremonies in Adelaide. It was also the week when four of UniSA's most valued academic leaders were honoured. Professor John Ralston, Director of the Ian Wark Research Centre, had his Laureate Professorship conferred. Professors Ian Davey, Alison MacKinnon and Robert Crotty were all conferred as Emeritus Professors acknowledging their long term contribution to the University and to its research profile. All three have retired from the University but will continue to contribute through research and consultancy.

Emeritus Prof Crotty began his academic career as a priest and has two bachelor degrees and three Masters degrees in history, theology and biblical studies, a postgraduate diploma in archaeology and a PhD in religious knowledge and theological education. He has recently taken on the role as Director of the Ethics Centre of SA.

Prof MacKinnon graduated as a Master of Education and completed her PhD studies with a strong focus on women's history. She was the Foundation Director of UniSA's Research Centre for Gender Studies and in 1997 the Hawke Research Institute. She was named a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2005, one of the highest academic honours in the field in Australia.

Prof Ian Davey began his academic career with a research focus on history and geography and worked as a school teacher after graduating. He later completed a PhD in the History of Education at Toronto University before returning to Australia to teach at Adelaide University. When he joined UniSA, it was as a senior manager and Pro Vice Chancellor for Research where his contribution has been enormous. He also led the University's international engagement, nurturing relationships and supporting both research and internationalisation with vigour and finesse.

Graduation photos can be found [here](#).

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Classifieds

For sale

Mitsubishi Magna Executive 1993, V6, 172,000km, auto, a/c, electric mirrors, power steering, ex cond. Call Ricky on 0415 897 929 or email ricky.handrickan@unisa.edu.au

Wine, 2003 Shiraz from McLaren Vale/Fleurieu Peninsula \$150 and 2005 Sauvignon Blanc, grapes from Adelaide Hills \$130. Both labelled, family business going under the name of Beehive, 13 to doz. Can deliver to some southern areas. Email anita.collyer@unisa.edu.au

TV Unit, pine (teak stain), corner unit, 2 shelves plus cabinet, fits a 51cm TV, \$50. Call Colin on 0438 829 155.

Fridge, Westinghouse 400L, \$500; Simpson Washing Machine, \$300; Whirlpool Clothes Dryer \$200; All ex cond. Call Jag on 0412 628 799.

CD Burner/ DVD reader, Sony, slim build, recommended for PC's with limited bay space, \$117. Call Cherie on (08) 8302 0870.

Accommodation

For rent, Kingswood, 3 bdrm house, large living area, fully heated, close to city transport. Available July-Aug 2006. Suit visiting academic or new arrival with family, rent negotiable. Call Rob on 0410 498 507 or email rob.fowler@unisa.edu.au

House Wanted, by visiting Canadian professor and his family (4 total) in the Unley area from July for 12 months. Preference for a furnished accom. Call Delene on (08) 8302 5279.

House Wanted, by visiting Taiwanese academic from July for 12 months. Preferably furnished and near Magill. Please contact Gary (08) 8302 5326 or email gary.howat@unisa.edu.au

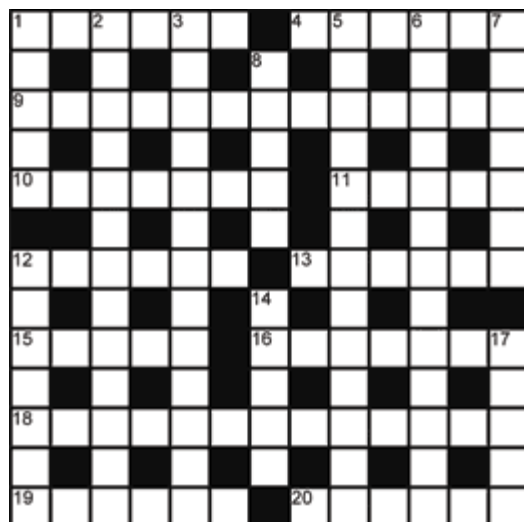
Got something to sell?

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

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Colgan's Cryptic Crossword



Across

1. Holders of several track records (6)
4. Old actress returned for "The Birds" (6)
9. Hail Killorglin's Puck with passion. It's a hands-on experience! (8,5)
10. Onset of severe back-trouble led father to drink (4-3)
11. Turn inside out one associated with the court (5)
12. Discontinuing heartless punishment (6)
13. Banal head-wear (3-3)
15. Point towards, and unpretentiously head off (5)
16. Indict every rogue, for starters! (7)
18. Disorderly Pole interrupts South African mayor (13)
19. Make a misleading declaration concerning spirit (6)
20. It's so heavy and stuffy (6)

Down

1. Reasons eliminating Hera's second source of peacock eyes (5)
2. Sailors invading a function in the school dorm (8,5)
3. Young people conceal restricted and troublesome formative years (8,5)
5. Help entourage panicked by wild animal (5,8)
6. Left forlorn by her date (6,7)
7. Suffer anxiety. Contaminated waste instigated it. (5,2)
8. Sharp, quite sharp! (5)
12. Take steps to have leg included in the championship (5,2)
14. Pointed like a sago palm (5)
17. Like a toad aroused (5)

Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday, April 21, 2006.

Solution



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Our people - John Holmes

Coming from a background in teaching and advising with the Education Department and the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia, my relatively short time with the University has ranged from lecturing in drama, program directing to Head of School – all most enjoyable and exciting positions. However, even after three years with the large and evolving School of Education, my role as Associate Head of School remains complex, difficult and far too demanding.

To alleviate the pressures of the major part of my job I retain great personal challenge by working with students at all levels – in undergraduate research courses like deconstructing sexualities, and as a wide-ranging doctoral supervisor. It is an honour to be Chair of the University's Advisory Group for Students with a Disability, a diverse group which ensures that the University remains at the forefront in providing excellent and appropriate services for all students. My honours was in drama and english, my MA in the area of race and sexuality, and my EdD in physical theatre. Out of this diverse background I am now ranging over an octopus-like research collection: World War II diaries, the history of drama education in South Australia and the wonderfully in-your-face "cultures of the body".



Staff home pages tell lots of stories, but not all. For example, my three children have all studied at UniSA – one uses her qualifications to work in Barcelona, one is finishing her second UniSA degree, and the third won a gold medal at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games and studies intermittently. On the home pages we don't refer to the annoyances of funding cuts which curtail quality teaching, or the incessant pressures that split campuses put on a school. Then again, neither do we praise an institution which actively supports diversity across all students and staff – background, ability, interest, aspiration or career change.

I am still here because of that diversity!

John Holmes is an Associate Professor and Associate Head of the school of education.

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Academic board

February 2006
by Peter Cardwell

Issues For 2006

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Denise Bradley, gave a special presentation on issues the University face in 2006.

The external environment in which the University finds itself is extremely volatile. This follows a period of tumultuous reform in the higher education sector. If recent policy announcements are any indication, it is almost impossible to predict what the Government is going to do next, but there is clear push to differentiate universities by status, creating research and teaching only universities. Old threats such as privatisation and deregulation are also appearing under new guises.

In the national context, demand for undergraduate places has dropped from a high of 251,226 in 2004 to 232,304 in 2006. In South Australia the total number of first preference applications to the three universities has dropped from almost 30,000 to around 20,000 between 1992 and 2006. While demand has remained steady at a state level for the past few years, after 2010 it is predicted to decline rapidly.

In the next few months an American university, Carnegie Mellon, will open its doors in Adelaide with a generous subsidy from the State Government. Competition between the existing state universities is already strong and this move will only increase it.

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) has a new Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop. It is clear that the new Minister will be different from her predecessor. However, what is not yet clear is how she will approach the major issues confronting universities such as the Research Quality Framework (RQF) and changes to the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.

There are certain inevitabilities for the University in 2006. The University will need to meet its load targets or be forced to give the money back to the Commonwealth, because for every 100 equivalent full-time student loads it is under target, the University will lose \$1.3 million.

It is critical that the University further improve its research performance in preparation for the introduction of the RQF. The Corporate Planning Group has built into forward projections an increase of \$5 million in the Vice Chancellor's Development Fund to support investment in research performance in 2006.

A major triennial academic profile project is planned. The project will look at a number of issues including: the impact of the internal resource allocation model on internal collaboration across the University; the structure of undergraduate degrees and the balance between general and professional content; the balance between undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees; how undergraduate programs relate to the University's research strengths; and what new areas the University should be developing.

Student Services Advisory Committee

Academic Board approved a proposal to disestablish the Student Services Advisory Committee (SSAC), and establish a Student Services Advisory Group reporting to the Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic).

The SSAC was established in 2001 with a focus on identifying service issues and priorities. In recent years the findings of the Student Experience Questionnaire (SEQ) have become the principal source of information and feedback on concerns related to student services.

A systematic approach to identifying and dealing with these concerns is now possible through the use of the SEQ. Directors and Managers responsible for the provision of student services are required, as part

of their performance management agreements, to respond to issues raised by the SEQ.

The disestablishment of the SSAC represents an operational change that is not intended to reduce student representation. The six working groups reporting to SSAC will continue their work, which will be complemented by the proposal to set up a new working group.

At the same time, the student services sub-committee of the finance committee will maintain responsibility for considering matters related to improving the quality of services to students.

Student Services Advisory Committee

Academic Board received a progress report on the Portfolio Entry Trial 2005-2006. The Portfolio Entry Trial is an important initiative targeting Year 12 students in 12 schools in the northern metropolitan suburbs and one in Whyalla with disadvantaged student populations and very low rates of access to university education. Places have been made available in business, computer and information science and visual communication. The trial has been very successful.

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River quest supports cancer kids

by Michèle Nardelli

What in the world would make two blokes paddle two kayaks along the Murray River from Albury NSW to Goolwa? Just so you get an idea of how much paddling that is – it is almost 7000 laps of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (2193km) and involves 1.6 million rotations of their shoulders... ouch!

But for campus services security officer, Derek Lawson, it will be worth every aching kilometre. Lawson will pair up with friend Michael Proctor to take on this adventure in a bid to raise as much money as possible for the specialist childhood cancer ward at the Womens and Childrens Hospital (W&CH) in SA.

Right now the pair is looking for more sponsorship for the event to boost the fundraising effort from hundreds of dollars to thousands. They are offering three levels of corporate sponsorship – bronze, silver and gold – which cover sums from \$250 right through to \$1000 or more.



“At the end of this we want to be able to hand over a handsome cheque to the hospital because we know the support will make a difference to all the children who face the real challenge of cancer,” Lawson said.

“For me it is not about anything personal – I am a fit healthy adult and I simply want to do something that will help people who don’t have those advantages. The Brookman Ward at the W&CH is one of the best places we can think of to support.”

All expenses for the trip are being covered by the paddlers personally. Their fundraising target is \$25,000.

While Lawson and Proctor believe they will get a lot of support along the course of their river journey across three states, they are keen to encourage corporate support for the venture.

“I am thrilled that UniSA’s Document Services has provided in-kind support and that work is flexible enough for me to fit this in,” Lawson said.

“We’ve also had considerable support from Satex Distributors, Access Canoes and Perception Kayaks and we know the University’s Students Association, USASA, is planning a few small fundraisers to help us along. Now we’re hoping more businesses and individuals will come on board to help us meet our target.”

Staff, students, graduates and businesses interested in adding their sponsorship can contact Lawson or Proctor at derek.lawson@unisa.edu.au or michael.proctor@dfc.sa.gov.au

In any given week up to 100 children will receive treatment at the W&CH. The Oncology Department is now caring for more than 500 children with cancer or leukaemia from throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory. As a result of research into childhood cancer, the cure rate has risen from 20 to 75 per cent in the last 25 years. Information about the Brookman Ward is available at www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/divisions/paedm/brookman

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Getting down to business in Malaysia

by **Rebecca Gill**

UniSA is now offering its highly sought after business degrees in Malaysia via a new partnership with tertiary education provider, Taylor's Business School.

Classes for the new transnational programs began in February and more than 100 students began their bachelor degree programs in commerce, applied finance, or management (marketing).

The curriculum and coursework are identical to those offered at UniSA and the degrees can either be entirely completed in Malaysia, or partly completed in South Australia.

All learning and teaching resources are provided by UniSA and the moderation for all assignments and exams is also carried out by UniSA.

Most classes are taught by TBS academics but UniSA staff are also visiting Malaysia to give instruction.

TBS is part of the prominent Taylor's College, which has several campuses across Malaysia and graduates thousands of students every year. It also boasts a renowned university bridging program and has a strong record of getting students work experience at large global companies such as KPMG, Ernst and Young and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

These degree programs are well matched to the Australian job market. The Bachelor of Commerce is accredited by both Australian professional accounting bodies and is a direct pathway to accountancy careers in both Australia and Malaysia.

Furthermore, three more transnational programs have received University approval, signalling that the partnership with Taylor's College is set to grow. Offered through the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, the programs are the Bachelor of Arts-Journalism, Multimedia or Communication and Media Management. They will operate under the same model as the business programs, and are expected to begin in July.

UniSA is very proud of this new partnership – as it not only expands international relationships, but also increases the exchange of cross-cultural knowledge.

"Taylor's College is proving to be an excellent partner, and we look forward to a very fruitful relationship," Professor Gerry Griffin said.

It is expected that once these programs reach maturity, about 1000 students will be studying for a UniSA degree through Taylor's College.

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Food for thought in Africa

by Rodney Magazinovic

The relationship between student and lecturer often doesn't last past a semester or two but UniSA's program director in pharmacy and medical science, Dr Stuart Andrews, has established a bond that has stretched beyond graduation and across the world.

Bachelor of Applied Science (Food Science and Nutrition) graduate from Botswana, Abia Sebaka, invited his former teacher to come to Botswana and help assess some of the food challenges facing his country.

Sebaka graduated from UniSA in December 2004 and since then has worked at the National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC) in Botswana.

Following his visit to Botswana, a 2700km road trip around the country last June, Dr Andrews believes that, with the right effort and continuing education, the food processing industry can develop to offer better food security to the country.

"The Batswana are highly dependent on neighbouring South Africa for much of their staple foods," he said.

"The burgeoning diamond industry is hungry for workers and pays them much higher wages than what they could earn on the land, so more and more people have left farming, and the agriculture and food industries have suffered a bit of a collapse.

"The one shining example of excellence is Botswana's meat corporation, which is internationally recognised and accredited as a source of good quality beef. The challenge today is to develop other food related industries to similar standards, especially to develop nutrient enriched sorghum or maize products to enhance the immune systems of sufferers of AIDS as well as infants after weaning."

To foster this, Dr Andrews said a Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency had been set up to develop government sponsored projects.

"By providing grants and infrastructure they are encouraging people back into food production and processing. The goal is self sufficiency," he said. "An important part of this is education and it was one such program which helped fund Sebaka's studies at UniSA with the expectation that he would return to the NFTRC to undertake research."

The NFTRC employs about 50 people. The facilities are world-class and include cutting edge pilot plants and analytical equipment. During his visit Dr Andrews worked with many of the young researchers including Sebaka to help them focus their research and to develop strategies to better use their natural raw materials, which include some fascinating indigenous foods including the marula fruit and the mopane worms.

While in Botswana Dr Andrews ran an international standards training course to provide NFTRC employees and invited food microbiologists from government organisations with the latest information on how to operate their laboratories to world's best practice.

"I'm hopeful that collaborative research and further exchanges will be possible in the future," Dr Andrews said. "Bringing people to Australia and training them at UniSA, then seeing them apply their knowledge



and skills to enhance the quality and safety of the food supply in their home country is a very rewarding aspect of my role as a program director.”

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Work environment wins accolades

Hot on the heels of its success as Employer of the Year in the Public Sector category of 2005 Australian Council of Commerce and Industry and Business Council of Australia National Work and Family Awards, UniSA has been named an Employer of Choice for Women in SA.

Announced at the end of February, UniSA was one of only seven businesses and organisations in SA to win recognition from the Federal Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

For Shona Mathieson, an employee at UniSA for the past eight years, the award comes as no surprise.

"It is an extremely supportive work environment – not only because it has good provisions for maternity leave, but because you feel encouraged to achieve here," she said.

"I started out on a short-term contract for a single project but that led to full-time work and then an opportunity to study at work with a partial reimbursement of fees and real flexibility, such as time off for exams."

Already holding a Bachelor of International Studies, Mathieson began a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration and Management to build new skills relevant to her role in student recruitment at UniSA.

After getting married a few years ago she took maternity leave in June 2004 and returned in November 2005.

In that time she took 16 weeks paid maternity leave and a further 12 weeks on half pay. And with baby Amber in her life, Mathieson said she was grateful for the staggered return to work where for the first few weeks she came back to her role three days a week but on full pay.

"I love my job and I think what is great about UniSA is that the excellent conditions mean you feel valued," she said. "In return I am very loyal to the institution and I think the University gains by having people on board who have experience, skills and commitment."



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Researching the work life seesaw

Politicians keep telling us we have never had it so good, but the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index (Deakin University) released in January this year could indicate otherwise. What it found was that a home in a ritzy suburb, a top job and the latest flash car are not necessarily a recipe for happiness. It is not these things that make us “relaxed and comfortable”. Michèle Nardelli reports.

We live in complicated times – a faster, more fractured society and one in which life, work and family can be an abrasive combination.

UniSA’s Professor Barbara Pocock believes happier, healthier and more sustainable communities will only develop if we understand the enormous cultural, sociological and economic shifts that have occurred in the past 30 years and set about making some important adjustments.



Director of the new Centre for Work and Life at UniSA’s Hawke Institute for Sustainable Societies, Prof Pocock said part of the rub is that while communities have changed enormously, institutional and cultural values have moved very little.

“You can see it in the simplest of examples and you can follow a chain of collision between work and life,” she said.

“If only 10 per cent of a school’s parents are working, support with sporting, coaching and classroom reading activities might be accommodated, but when the reality is that 60 per cent of all parents are working, it becomes really difficult to source that support consistently. That deficit has an impact on the quality of a school environment, the working patterns of teaching staff and implications for children’s learning and development.

“Household patterns in Australia have changed enormously too. A quarter are now single person households, a phenomenon that has increased steadily in the past 10 years, and while the majority of Australian households are families, more and more of them are households where couples work while they have dependants at home.”

Prof Pocock says women’s move into the paid workforce is one of the most significant changes in the labour force over the past 30 years. It has given women a great deal of economic power, but without changes in both the workplace and at home, for many it means a more intensive load and a big guilt burden.

“That key feminist goal – entry into public life through paid work – has been unravelled by the harsh realities of unchanging work practices, the undiminished burden of domestic work and a deficit in supports such as workplace flexibility and childcare,” she said.

“And it is not only women who face the ‘something’s got to give’ stresses of society today. We can see it everywhere – less time for family, longer working hours, less play time for children, erosion of a sense community and neighbourhood, increased levels of depression and mental illness, and increased marginalisation of the poor.”

As research Chair of the new Centre, Prof Pocock will lead important research into how these changes at work and at home fit or don’t fit together.

“We want to look at the points of abrasion or collision and inform policies and approaches that build a better fit for the individual and society,” she said.

Key issues on the agenda include an analysis of the effect of work on Australian women, men, children, households and communities, and the implications for social policy and theory. The Centre is also researching low paid service industry workers such as cleaners and child carers and the impact of work on their families and their communities. Another project is examining the impact of casualisation on young workers and their skills development, training and long-term employment. A key area for new research is an examination of childcare affordability, accessibility and quality and the impact on women and work, especially for low income earners.

“These are broad and complex issues but they go to the very heart of how Australia will progress as a society. Many are international concerns,” Prof Pocock said.

“We need to look at how we have changed, where the stress points are and what is working well. We want to develop a buffer against the kinds of chain reactions that cause widening inequality, social disadvantage and unsustainable communities and work practices. Australia can do much better.”

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Science and research in the spotlight

by Geraldine Hinter

UniSA is set to benefit from state government funding and support from industry partners to develop a unique synchrotron X-ray facility for mineral processing, an innovative centre for drug formulation and delivery, and a facility for advanced materials surfaces engineering.

The funding will enable UniSA's Applied Centre for Structural and Synchrotron Studies to develop synchrotron technology that can simultaneously determine the structure and chemical composition of mineral samples at microscopic levels – a capability not possible in the laboratory, according to Professor Andrea Gerson, director of the Centre, and leader and manager of the project.

"The funding allows us to build a niche industrially-oriented market for SA with an applied high tech capability not available elsewhere in Australia," Prof Gerson said.

Advanced materials surfaces engineering will also receive a boost with a facility, unique within Australia, that enables existing materials to be equipped with novel, advanced coatings designed for specific applications. Led by Professor Hans Griesser, Deputy Director of the Ian Wark Research Institute, the facility will also be used to develop efficient manufacturing processes for novel coatings used in the production of industrial products.

A new centre in the Sansom Institute, with a goal to harness SA's sustained excellence in the pharmaceutical sector and become a world leader in developing novel drug delivery technologies, has received \$550,000 in state government funding. The Centre for Innovative Drug Formulation and Delivery will expand the Sansom Institute's capabilities in drug formulation and delivery through enhanced equipment infrastructure and staff recruitment. To be led by Professor Allan Evans, Professor Ross McKinnon and Jason Valentine, the Centre is a highly collaborative initiative with initial partners including Mayne Pharma, PharmaQest, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute and Virient.

The projects will be funded by the Science, Innovation and Technology Directorate and the Premier's Science and Research Fund.

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New head of statistics

by Geraldine Hinter

UniSA's new Director of Statistical Consulting and Research Services, Associate Professor Irene Hudson, is widely known for her contributions to biostatistics, health informatics, global climate indicators and wood science.

The leader of statistics in the School of Mathematics and Statistics, Prof Hudson comes to UniSA from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, where she was a senior lecturer in the Mathematics and Statistics Department.

At the University of Melbourne Prof Hudson led Australia's first statistical research group to create a paediatric length of in hospital stay system specific to the patient's diagnosis.

Her current areas of research include statistical phenology, causal and ecological inference, clinical trials research, brain image prints of character, epidemiology, health environmetrics, and population modelling.

Prof Hudson is a member of the editorial board for Statistical Methods in Medical Research, the Van der Veer Institute for Parkinson's and Brain Research, the UC Research Centres of Bio-Engineering and Wood Technology.

Prof Hudson's vision is to build a strong mathematical statistical research and postgraduate profile at UniSA and enhance collaborative research links with UniSA institutes and centres, interlinking statistics, mathematics, industry, health sciences, business and information sciences.



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Defence centre launched

by Geraldine Hinter

Recognising that electronic systems are a critical part of any defence strategy, the Government of South Australia and the University of South Australia have joined forces to encourage the development of local skills and capability maturity in system technologies and processes.



The Centre of Excellence in Defence and Industry Systems Capability (CEDISC), which was launched last month, will respond to major global changes in systems engineering thinking and practices by developing local talent to meet those challenges.

The state government has invested \$4.7 million into CEDISC, which will work collaboratively with Defence, DSTO, industry and UniSA to provide specific capabilities, training and services in systems and software engineering.

UniSA's Systems Engineering and Evaluation Centre (SEEC) will be a lead player in the new Centre (CEDISC), based in the Mawson Lakes technology precinct.

The DSTO Professor of Systems Engineering at SEEC, Stephen Cook, says CEDISC aims to up-skill industry engineers so that they can undertake the complex design and integration tasks associated with large scale projects, like the air warfare destroyer contract. In addition to its educational role, CEDISC will also provide a range of contract research and consulting services to support its mission.

"With its heart in South Australia, CEDISC follows the successful model pioneered by SEEC that provides research services, coursework and consultancy across the nation," Prof Cook said.

"We are proud to be involved in this initiative, which will have a vital role in successful defence project outcomes.

"There is a rosy future for highly qualified systems engineers and UniSA has recognised the demand for these skills and responded with an exciting range of postgraduate educational opportunities."

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Architecture in the spotlight

by **Rebecca Gill**

The interdisciplinary architectural talkfest of the year was held at UniSA in March, as part of the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

The Workings of Structure and Edifice symposium saw dozens of movers and shakers in the national architecture scene descend on City West campus, to tackle issues critical to the future of our cities.

Two linked events questioned what constitutes the best architectural ideas and practice in Australia – a visual art and design research group colloquium, Structure, and the joint Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design and the Hawke Centre’s third Everycity Symposium, Edifice.

Participants from disciplines as diverse as philosophy, visual art, architecture, design, landscape, nanoscience, politics and governance, cultural studies and dance contributed to a day of robust academic debate.

Probing the intellectual core of modern architecture, Edifice focused on the issue of public space and what defines truly “human” architecture. Adelaide City councillor Judith Brine chaired the event, with key practitioners including Australian studies expert Nikos Papastergiadis and award-winning architects Kerstin Thompson and John Wardle contributing to the lively discussions.

Consensus on the day was that corporate architecture and ownership were threatening the notion of public city space. Participants stressed the importance of shared space in connecting people in meaningful ways and debated how this trend could be reversed in modern design.

There was also an excellent demonstration of the importance of landscape in new thinking, with the idea of “place” being put before “edifice” in recent innovative Australian architecture projects.

A transcript of the Everycity Symposium is available on the Hawke Centre website www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au

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Art museum acquisitions

by Erica Green

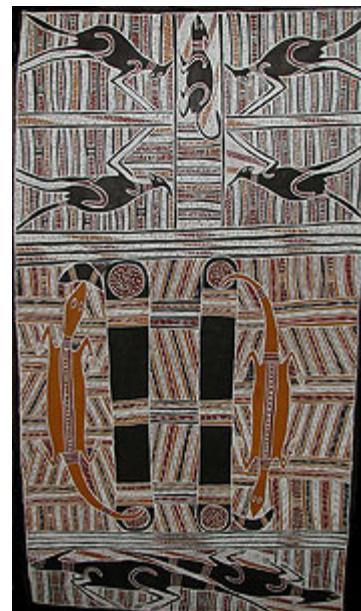
With planning for the new Art Museum gallery now under way at the Landmark building at UniSA's City West campus, it would be easy to overlook the Art Museum's other key role – managing the development of the University's own art collection. It's an activity that impacts visually across the campuses, with works of art regularly displayed in key locations.



Now and then the exciting opportunity arises to buy new works of art for the collection. It's a task carried out in consultation with the divisions and an Art Museum acquisitions committee recommends the works of art acquired in accordance with University Art Collection policy. Sometimes the works are specially commissioned from artists and sometimes they are donated.

Most recently a generous donation from AMP funded the purchase of two important bark paintings by celebrated Indigenous contemporary artists – Djambawa Marawilli and Wyan Wanambi (Dundiwuy) – both from Yirrkala in North East Arnhem land.

Marawilli (b.1953) received a prestigious Telstra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island award for bark painting in 1996. He paints the sacred dugong, crocodile and snake dreaming, and represents the ancestral crocodile man who is thought to have brought fire to the Madarrpa country. In Sacred dugong, crocodile and snake dreamings (1984), Marawilli has used diamond-shaped patterns to represent the presence of Bãru and the burns he received from the ancestral fire. The painting tells the story of how Bãru descended into the sea to heal his wounds at the dreaming place of the dugong, where he remains today.



Wanambi (1936 - 1992) painted in the Gurka's wuy and Trial Bay areas that surround the Marrakulu clan country. In Wild honey spirit man and possum dreamings (1984), Wanambi depicts the ancient creation myth of the wild honey spirit man (Wuyal) who fells the mangrove tree at Gurka's wuy with his stone axe to reach honey from a bee's nest. The honey flows from the felled tree, permeating the ground and creating the river Gurka's wuy, the ceremonial ground for the Marrakulu clan in Trial Bay.

These significant bark paintings are now on display at Magill campus.

For more information on the Art Museum, contact Erica Green, Director, or Cherie Prosser, Collection and Curatorial Assistant on (08) 8302 0870 or visit www.unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum

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Child protection expert looks at the father factor

by Michèle Nardelli

At the top of the tree for child protection workers are the best interests of children, but traditionally when dealing with children at risk, the primary focus is on stabilising the mother as key carer of the children.

Visiting child care and protection expert from the University of Dundee, Scotland, Professor Brigid Daniel, says this focus on mothers may obscure the risks and indeed benefits fathers and father figures can provide in children's lives.

"Child protection research and practice has traditionally focused on mothers – even when a mother is considered a risk to her children, the focus has been on supporting her rehabilitation to care for the children," Prof Daniel said.

"In overlooking the role of fathers and father figures there are some real risks. We may not be as alert as we should be to the threats posed by fathers and father figures when they are a part of a mother's life – so when we assess a scenario where children are being harmed or neglected, we may not take account of their role. On the other hand when children at risk are identified, we may not fully consider the positive contribution fathers can make."

Prof Daniel says generally children in at-risk situations live in fragmented family circumstances, but she believes it is important that the father's potential for both harm and benefit to the children is given more consideration when care and protection strategies are devised.

"A father's absence from the day-to-day running of the family should not be assumed to be disinterest," Prof Daniel said.

"There is potential to access all sorts of supports for children through a father relationship."

Prof Daniel said to secure the best outcomes for children, researchers and workers in the field needed to consider the full range of influences in children's lives.

Prof Daniel will team with the Chair of Child Protection and head of the Australian Centre for Child Protection, Professor Dorothy Scott, to present a special UNIFEM seminar at the Mercury Cinema on April 6 to mark United Nations' World Health Day. The seminar – Is Child Protection a Public Health issue? Views from Australia and the UK – will look at a whole-of-government public health model of child protection.

[More information and transcript of the talk.](#)

Prof Daniel is a visiting professor at UniSA until the end of April.

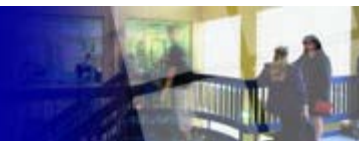
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State Government supports young researchers

Young health and medical researchers will benefit from a three year, \$890,000 scholarship program announced by the SA Government recently that targets PhD researchers.

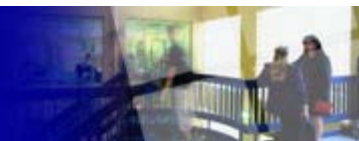
The funding will support PhD scholarships for eight researchers who are looking at ways to improve the health of South Australians.

UniSA scholarship winner Rebecca Thomson came to SA from the United States to study human movement and sports science. Now a PhD candidate researching the effect of diet and exercise on overweight women with polycystic ovary syndrome, she says the three year scholarship of \$19,000 indexed annually will make all the difference.

"This scholarship will allow me to remain in South Australia to continue my studies, and it means I won't need to juggle my research with a paid job," Thomson said. The 22-year-old will be one of two recipients at UniSA. Another two will be awarded at Flinders University and four half scholarships will go to researchers at Adelaide University.

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New PVC has depth of experience

Professor Peter Lee has been appointed Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Academic at UniSA.

Prof Lee is a graduate of RMIT and Monash universities and has been Executive Dean: Engineering, Science and Computing at Curtin University since 2002, with responsibility for more than 300 staff.

He originally qualified as a chemical engineer and then completed his PhD at Monash University in 1980. Before embarking on a long and successful academic career, he worked for ICI Australia as an engineer. He has held senior positions at Murdoch University and the University of Queensland.

As a researcher he has won \$4.5 million in competitive research grants and \$2.9 million from industry and government sources. He has published three books and 221 papers. He has also worked as a visiting Professor in both Canada and Sweden.

During his time at Curtin he initiated and led revision of the science and engineering curriculum, focusing research into eight fields from the previous 27 and initiating and leading a review of the university's budget model. Professor Lee will join UniSA this month.



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Recycling – soccer rules

In what is traditionally one of the most paper driven industries, UniSA has achieved a recycling milestone in 2005 by reducing its waste to landfill to less than 80 tonnes – a 30 per cent reduction over five years.

In 2004 under desk paper boxes and recycling bins were introduced to most areas of the University, allowing material such as glossy magazines, newspapers and photocopy wrappers to be recycled.

UniSA Director of Services, Neville Thiele, says it's all part of a greater push for sustainability, which has also included reducing water and electricity use across all campuses.

And while the results look good, there is still room to improve, especially in adopting the right recycling habits. With support from the Pro Vice Chancellor of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Michael Rowan, Magill has been the trial campus for a red and yellow card warning system.

If cleaning staff found a waste bin containing paper that should have been in the recycle box, they did not empty it. Instead they left a yellow card on the person's desk explaining the correct recycling practices. If the paper was not placed in the recycle box within five days, a red card was left clearly stating that the bin wouldn't be emptied until the paper was removed.

The success of the Magill trial will see an extension of the warning card system to other campuses to monitor contamination of recycling bins with food scraps or other waste. To find out more about UniSA's drive for sustainability go to www.unisa.edu.au/services/current/environment

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