



UniSA News

February 2006

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



New powerhouse of sustainability research

[Full Story](#)

Regular sections

- From the Chancellery
- In brief
- Classifieds
- Colgan's cryptic
- Our people
- Academic board
- Five to nine

Main stories



[Tour Down Under success](#)



[Spotlight on science](#)



[The big picture](#)



[Education goes global](#)

Other stories

[Vice Chancellor wins South Australian of the year](#)

[A new era of information](#)

[New Hawke Research Institute Director](#)

[Games begin for Rhodes](#)

[Foundation chair](#)

[Statewide engagement](#)

[Magill hosts comedy fundraiser](#)

[A new focus on Japan](#)

[Healthy meal](#)

[top^](#)



UniSA News

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

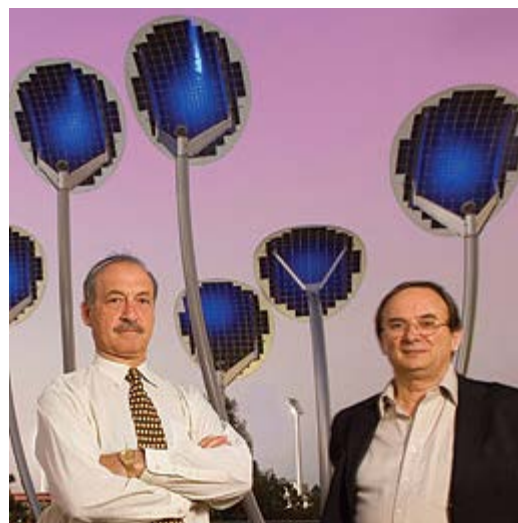
New powerhouse of sustainability research

by Geraldine Hinter

Creating ecologically sensitive systems and technologies will be the focus of UniSA's new multi-million dollar powerhouse of sustainability research.

The Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies (ISST) is set to become an internationally recognised research hub by developing systems and technologies that optimise the use of natural resources, minimise waste, emissions and other environmental consequences, and reduce costs.

"ISST brings together the talents of four world-leading centres within the University researching agricultural machinery, industrial and applied mathematics, sustainable energy and transport systems," ISST Director, Professor Wasim Saman said.



"Integrating the capabilities of these centres means we can create new multi-disciplinary research programs across a broad range of advanced systems and technologies that will help South Australia to become a national and international leader in sustainable development. We hope to stimulate the growth of industries that will export innovative South Australian technologies, products and expertise," Prof Saman said.

Sustainability tops the list of major issues facing the planet at the beginning of 2006 and it's this area that's generating the most excitement at UniSA, according to Pro Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Professor Caroline McMillen.

"Our researchers are already actively involved in developing sustainable solutions in areas such as agriculture and food production, water cycle management, energy and emissions in transport systems, built and natural environments and even the modelling of fish populations," Prof McMillen said.

"We're taking new research outcomes and new technologies into the environment to address here-and-now issues. ISST is about finding clever solutions that will contribute to a sustainable society."

A sample of project outcomes is the solar mallee "trees" - a new generation of solar lights in a contemporary form at Adelaide's Festival Centre plaza. One of many environmentally sustainable initiatives developed by UniSA researchers, the "trees" harness solar energy from the sun through canopies of laminated, oval-shaped, curved solar cell panels.

These canopies generate about 2592kWh of energy but only use 375kWh per annum to light the plaza at night. The excess energy generated, about 2217kWh, is returned to the power grid, saving about two tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

Professor Jerzy Filar will be Director of Research at ISST, with an advisory board selected from industry, government and academia. ISST is also establishing an expert panel of leading international authorities to provide advice on its research programs, potential international funding and collaborative opportunities. Members include Herbert Girardet and Mathis Wackernagel.

[top^](#)



UniSANEWS

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

From the Chancellery

It gives me real pleasure to write this first Chancellery column of the new year as the newest member of the UniSA senior management team.

The last four weeks have been a whirlwind of packing and unpacking, memorable farewell parties, and saying goodbye to good friends and colleagues at The University of Adelaide before being warmly welcomed at UniSA.

As I enjoy an early morning cappuccino at my new haunt, the Phat Coffee Shop on Hindley Street, before heading off to one of our four research campuses to hear more about the great research we do at UniSA, I reflect that while I may have only moved across town, really I have travelled a long way in the past month.

I came to Adelaide from Melbourne in 1992 because of the tremendous collaborative opportunities for work in my research field – the early origins of health and disease.

As a researcher at the coalface, I've experienced the real highs and lows of research funding outcomes, spent long nights crafting research manuscripts, and lived with the perpetual jet lag that comes with being an active member of a global research community.

During this time I also enjoyed a range of academic and research leadership roles – leading a department, a faculty, and a vibrant research centre. These roles gave me a great opportunity to engage in and champion the excellent research that we do in the state and to develop research policy and planning at the national and international level.

When the opportunity arose to consider taking on my current role at UniSA, I was impressed at the rate of growth in all measures of research and research training activity that has occurred in a short space of time at this relatively young institution.

I was also intrigued by the way UniSA had built such a distinct and dynamic research identity. This is an organisation with a collaborative and 'can do' culture, with researchers who work effectively with a broad range of external partners to generate innovative solutions to major problems.

Part of my role will be to build on this excellent base to grow our research capability and to foster those important external relationships.

There are of course, challenges ahead.

The national Research Quality Framework (RQF) exercise with its focus on measuring the academic quality and broad impact of research outputs will be a real challenge for us, primarily because the 2007 RQF will initially survey research outputs from a time period when we were in an early growth phase.

Given the time lag required to generate high quality research outputs, it is inevitable that the RQF will initially favour those institutions that have a long history of traditional research activity.

With the right mix of strategy, energy and confidence, however, we will work hard to build the output base required to meet the imperatives of the foreshadowed 2010 RQF exercise.

So thank you for the warm welcome and as the New Year begins, I look forward with anticipation and



enthusiasm to the new challenges and opportunities ahead.

[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)
[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)
Latest content revision: Monday, 7 September 2009

UniSA News

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

In brief

Ehrenberg and Bass honoured

Dr Frank Bass has been awarded an honorary doctorate from UniSA. Director of UniSA's Ehrenberg Bass Institute for Marketing Science, Professor Byron Sharp, presented the award to the Institute's namesake at a ceremony in Texas last month. Dr Bass is System Professor of Management at Eugene C McDermott University of Texas. Fellow namesake of the Institute, Professor Andrew Ehrenberg from London's South Bank University, will also receive an honorary doctorate in London later this month.

Literacy Scholarship Winner

Professor Barbara Comber and Associate Professor Helen Nixon are the inaugural winners of the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA) Research Scholarship for the project "Critical literacy: redesigning school learning in high poverty communities". The scholarship allows the researchers to work with teacher-researchers in two local schools and to assist them to present their teacher research to a national audience at the annual ALEA conference to be held in Darwin in July 2006.

Corporate Cup

A team of UniSA runners has proven to be a leading light among the local business athletic fraternity by taking out the prestigious 2005 Corporate Cup - Northern Region (Mawson Lakes). The "Research Renegades", including staff from Research Services, ITEK Pty Ltd and the School of Computer and Information Science, claimed top honours from about 30 teams competing in last year's event. Local organisations involved in this year's event included BAE Systems, Tenix Defence, City of Salisbury, Stratco and Saab Systems, amongst others.



Web Team Awarded

Andrea Rankin and Jenny Clift have received an excellence award from the Society for Technical Communication for their UniSA Web Authoring Guide. The UniSA Web Authoring Guide was developed by Rankin in 2003 as part of the Corporate Web Redevelopment Project, and maintained and further developed since then by Clift, Corporate Web Editor. The Guide supports more than 500 web authors across the University.

Chancellors Golf Day

It may have been fun and games but the \$17,000 plus raised at the Chancellor's Golf Day last year will make a serious impact on UniSA student opportunities. The proceeds will help fund UniSA's International Experience Travel Grants. Harry's Hackers from Harris Scarfe repeated their 2004 win, narrowly beating Messenger Newspapers. UniSA's first Rhodes scholar Ryan Manuel hosted the presentation dinner. He and another recipient of the International Experience grants, Lee Pope, inspired Australia Post to make two significant pledges and Qantas to pledge the cost of an Adelaide to Hong Kong airfare to the program, which will be matched by UniSA International. UniSA is indebted to sponsors Rider Hunt and Corporate Express, who have been with the challenge since its inception, and new sponsors Powerloan and the Lane Print Group.



[top^](#)



UniSANEWS

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Classifieds

For sale

Suzuki Grand Vitara 2005, V6, 29,000km, real 4WD, silver, immobiliser & alarm, tinted windows, a/c, power steering, roof racks, CD, full service history/books, excellent condition, \$25,000 ono. Call Liz on 0403 532 942 or email liz.dimmlich@itek.com.au

VR Commodore, club sport body kit, lowered, low km's, front end damage only, dark purple/black, \$1200 ono. Call Joe on 0424 700 443 or email connie.fialammadike@unisa.edu.au

Canon T50 SLR camera, with case. \$55. Call Denis on 0417 816 582 or email DVoight@ihug.com.au

Accommodation

For rent, Tennyson, room in 2 bed unit on Esplanade, 30 seconds to the beach, 20 minutes to Grange train station, close to West Lakes Mall, buses, cinemas. Share with 29yo male. Short term lease available. \$100 per week plus bond. Call Stuart on 0410 796 381 or email stuart.baulk@unisa.edu.au

For rent, Croydon Park, room in fully furnished house, air-conditioning, new kitchen, new bathroom, laundry with washing machine, wireless ADSL provided, fully furnished bedroom with desk, lamp, building wardrobe and linen, 15 mins from the city and only 1 min walk to the bus stop. \$85 per week. Email rob_brumnic@yahoo.com.au

For rent, Plympton Park, three bedrooms or two and study, fully furnished including crockery, linen etc. Suit visiting academic with family. Close to schools, public transport. Avail. Feb 1st, \$360 per week. Call Julie (08) 8302 3073 or email julie.mills@unisa.edu.au

Got something to sell?

Notices in the UniSANEWS 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

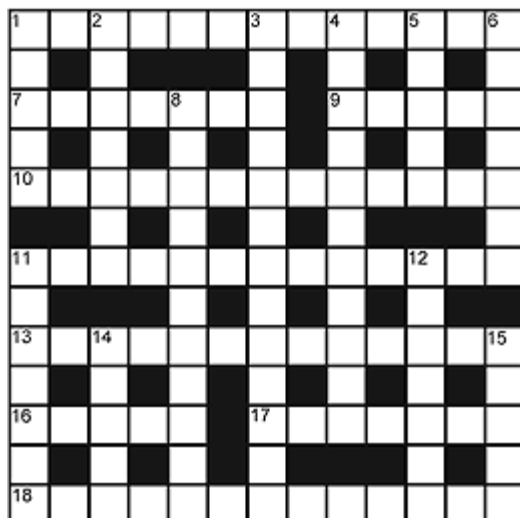
[top^](#)



UniSANEWS

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Colgan's cryptic crossword



Across

1. Take by surprise, as circus performers do (5,2,3,3)
7. Above rebuke, returning with more than expected (4,3)
9. Confuse Tenterfield Trader Unlimited (5)
10. Does hawk circling rising smoke come to a sad end? (6,7)
11. Artist developed a grin, say, making profits (8,5)
13. Those demonstrating hamper development in Borroloola (6,7)
16. One inhabitant of Doha not at all upset for another countryman (5)
17. Shot on roadway (2-5)
18. Fine food achieved in vegetable centre (7,6)

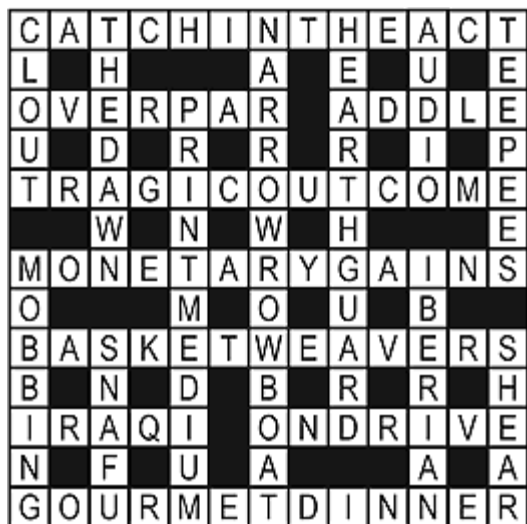
Down

1. A blow to one's political influence (5)
2. A considerable amount is raised during next day's break (3,4)
3. Caique sped up, creating arguments on larger vessel (6,7)
4. Try to wind up fire safety unit (6,5)
5. Car maker's operating capital is sound (5)
6. Transportable homes need support against rising damp (7)
8. Newspapers make an impression on agent (5,6)
11. Pressing upon gangsters to curtail numbers game (7)
12. Russian, lost south of peninsula (7)
14. State of confusion is unsafe, nearly chaotic (5)
15. Cut back the effect of stress (5)

Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday, March 17, 2006.

Solution



[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)
[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)
Latest content revision: Monday, 7 September 2009



UniSANEWS

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Our people : Bill Skinner

Born in Tanga, Tanzania, my family moved to the UK soon afterwards. We emigrated to Australia in 1968, based in Bendigo. We moved to Mt. Isa, then Perth, where I went to Christ Church Grammar.

Physics and chemistry sucked me in immediately. Sitting in the dirt assembly area at Flora Hill Primary (Bendigo), watching the Apollo 11 moon landing on an old TV with dodgy vertical hold had a profound effect on me.

After physics at Melbourne University, I wanted to get more "hands on" as far as instrumentation was concerned. The RMIT had just begun a PhD program and I was encouraged to sign on and also do some part-time lecturing. I joined the Australian Antarctic Division as a Glaciologist in 1990. It was a fantastic experience. UniSA beckoned in 1992 at the South Australian Surface Technology Centre, which later formed part of the Ian Wark Research Institute (The Wark™), founded by Professor John Ralston.



Over 14 years at UniSA I have been involved in developing the application of advanced laboratory- and synchrotron-based spectroscopic techniques in areas such as minerals and materials surface chemistry, environmental and forensic science. The nature of my experience has enabled me to form strong national and international links with organisations such as the University of Western Ontario, SA Forensic Science, SA Museum and the Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation.

My activities have deeply involved me in the development of Australian synchrotron science, through membership of a national Beamline Advisory Panel at the Australian Synchrotron (AS), as chair of the AS research program committee for activity at the Taiwan synchrotron and locally as committee member of the South Australian Synchrotron Users' Network. The Wark™ now has many routine synchrotron users, positioning ourselves well for the advent of the AS.

There are exciting times ahead, particularly with the new Australian Mineral Science Research Institute headquartered here at The Wark™. This is an unprecedented coup for The Wark™ and UniSA.

Outside of work I enjoy good food, Coopers beer and the live folk music scene. I even played in a pub band for a time when Irish was the flavour of the month. Wouldn't mind getting back into it. Anyone looking for a chord-thrasher?

Bill Skinner is an Associate Research Professor and sector coordinator for materials and environmental surface science at the Ian Wark Research Institute.

[top^](#)



UniSA News

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Academic board

December 2005
by Peter Cardwell

Developments and priorities in the Division of Health Sciences

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Health Sciences), Prof Robyn McDermott, gave a special presentation on developments and priorities for the Division.

The Division comprises three schools: the School of Health Sciences, the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences. There are two Deans: the Dean (Research) and the Dean (Teaching and Learning).

The Division has undergone significant change throughout 2004-2005. New Heads of School have been appointed in Pharmacy and Medical Sciences and Nursing Midwifery. In addition, there have been a number of senior staff changes and a research performance review of all senior academic staff, which has led to the introduction of explicit criteria for Level E staff. A new International Business Manager has also been appointed to help expedite international growth opportunities.

A new Bachelor of Nursing curriculum is on track to commence in 2007. At the same time, major policy changes and a new costing model for consultancy work have recently been developed. The emphasis in future will be on fewer small projects and more large ones, and the introduction of an 18 per cent Divisional levy.

Total research income for the Division has doubled since 2002. In 2005 research funding reached \$7,619,441. Most of the 2004-2005 increase was due to two major grants from the Department of Defence and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Research funding is expected to increase further, particularly through the Sansom Institute. Other promising developments have been the establishment of the Nutritional Physiology Research Centre, and approval for a new Centre for Rural Health and Community Development in collaboration with the University's Whyalla campus and the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School. It is anticipated that the new Chair in Biostatistics will also foster research growth in the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Besides the appointment of a new Dean, recent teaching and learning initiatives have included a well subscribed Teaching and Learning Colloquium in 2005, a thorough review of low Course Evaluation Instrument (CEI) courses obtaining low scores, a strong focus on staff development and performance management with the aid of CEI and SET data, and a major review of assessment practices.

There has been a 39 per cent increase in onshore international student numbers since 2004. This includes a 38.5 per cent increase in Physiotherapy with most students coming from India, a 98 per cent increase in Nursing predominantly from China, and a 35 per cent increase in Pharmacy mostly from Malaysia, while transnational program growth has increased by 30 per cent from 2004 largely due to the offering of the Masters in Clinical Pharmacy in Singapore and increased Nursing student numbers. This is set to increase further with the Masters of Nursing to be offered in Singapore and Malaysia commencing in 2006.

Chemical and Biological Hazards Policy

Academic Board approved changes to the University's Chemical and Biological Hazards Policy. The changes involve the establishment of a formal approval process for all University activities involving the use of potentially hazardous substances or equipment. This includes biohazards, genetically modified organisms, chemical hazards, radiation, mechanical risks, electrical hazards and pressure equipment. The committee with overarching responsibility has been renamed the Chemical and Biohazards Committee and the frequency of its meetings has been amended.

Pank UniSA PAL Scholarship

The Board approved a new Pank UniSA PAL Scholarship. The scholarship is for financially disadvantaged students who are endeavouring to gain entry into the University through UniSA PAL. The new scholarship has been approved following a donation of \$50,000 from the Pank Family Trust. The scholarship is for \$2000 per year for a student starting in the UniSA PAL year at Para West Adult Campus and continuing into one of our undergraduate degree programs, and will commence in 2006.

[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)

[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)

Latest content revision:Monday, 7 September 2009

UniSA News

[Archives](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Media Centre](#)
[UniSA Home](#)

Five to nine: Getting the Balance

by Rebecca Gill



“There must be nails – or glue – or something... holding it together?” That’s precisely what UniSA’s Dr Stuart Baulk, from the Centre for Sleep Research, thought the first time he saw someone balancing rocks while holidaying in Germany.

But as he was running late for a boat to Switzerland, Dr Baulk (better known as “Stubby”), and his friend Dr Greg Roach, also from the Centre for Sleep Research – didn’t stop for a closer inspection.

And it wasn’t until they missed their boat that they realised it was more of an optical illusion – the rocks were simply balancing there.

“We wandered back and stopped to watch. We had some time to kill so we thought we’d give it a go,” Dr Baulk said.

Three hours and four missed boats later, Drs Baulk and Roach were still there, mesmerised with their newfound hobby.

They perhaps would have never left had the weather not come over grey and windy – threatening to blow the large boulders onto their feet.

But ever since that day, Dr Baulk has been hooked.

“The idea is to get the least amount of contact between the rocks. There’s no trick to it – but trying to find the pivot point requires a lot of patience,” he said.

“Sometimes you put the first rock on top and it just won’t go. You twist it and turn it, you put it on an angle, you flip it, but it just won’t work. But it’s really rewarding when it does finally balance.”

With an academic background in psychology, Dr Baulk knows the connection between human behaviour and healthy sleep patterns. However, he is hesitant to acknowledge any direct correlation between his leisurely pursuits and getting a good night’s rest.

“I certainly couldn’t verify that balancing rocks helps you sleep better. But maintaining a balance between stressful and non-stressful activities can have positive effects on your sleeping habits. For me, it’s like meditating.”

[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)

[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)

Latest content revision: Monday, 7 September 2009

UniSANEWS

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Tour Down Under

by [Rebecca Gill](#)

In the searing January heat, hundreds of world-class cyclists assembled in Adelaide to compete in the annual Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under.

UniSA has strong links with the tour as sponsor of Team UniSA-Australia and host of the Thinking on Two Wheels cycling conference for the second year running – a symposium which provided some engaging academic perspectives on cycling.

University staff even got in on the action, slogging out the kilometres in the Be Active Tour for recreational riders.

The Tour Down Under, which was recently upgraded to make it the highest rating event on offer outside key European events such as the Tour de France and the Giro d'Italia, attracted an estimated 435,000 spectators – a record attendance in the Tour's eight year history.

And for the second time in the event, Team UniSA-Australia powered through the international talent to come first in the overall team classifications.

In the individual classification, recently enrolled UniSA student Gene Bates (pictured right) took fifth, Russell van Hout seventh and Chris Jongewaard ninth. Russell van Hout also finished second in the sprints classification.

Despite the record breaking hot weather (four days exceeding 41C), Team UniSA-Australia fans were out in full force, providing enormous support for the riders, who didn't fail to reward them for their dedication. It was cycling at its best.

Even though the riders have now dispersed you can follow their progress at the Commonwealth Games and on the aggressive European circuit.

For more information on Team UniSA visit our [Tour Down Under homepage](#).

[top^](#)



UniSA News

[Archives](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Media Centre](#)
[UniSA Home](#)

Spotlight on science

by Michèle Nardelli

Continued closer research collaboration between the state's three universities; incentives for women in science and engineering; supporting the development of more science teachers; developing clusters of research acumen – these are all part of a strategy for the future of science in South Australia.

The report, *Getting to the Future First* released this month by Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield, flows from the highly successful Thinkers in Residence program and is already making an impact in the state.

The Baroness is the head of the Royal Institute of Great Britain and spent a total of 15 weeks in SA in 2004 and 2005 as a Thinker in Residence. Launched by Premier Mike Rann in the new research facilities at UniSA's City East campus this month, the report contains a strong focus on collaboration, partnerships and valuing and harnessing local talent.



UniSA Pro Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation, Professor Caroline McMillen, believes the plan will provide an invaluable blueprint for science in SA. Prof McMillen has been nominated as one of 10 "champions" who will lead specific projects in SA.

As champion for the area of Women in Science and Engineering, Prof McMillen said there was much to gain by supporting women in science.

"The economic and social cost of the low participation rate of women in leadership roles in science and engineering is an issue of major worldwide concern," she said.

"I am keen to develop solutions within this state that may be able to be implemented internationally.

"I'm also looking forward to working with the other champions to realise the range of opportunities highlighted in this important report."

The 10 projects include the Bragg Initiative, which will work towards the foundation of a Royal Institution or "Ri Down Under" in collaboration with the UK Royal Institution; a focus on research collaboration in the neurosciences through the development of the Oxford Centre for the Science of the Mind; an international partnership with the James Martin 21st Century School; Science outside the Square, a program of community focused science events; continuing specialist training for teachers and a twinning program that promotes collaboration between scientists and science teachers; a special program to link neurosciences with community health care; a program to build a stronger support base for science research in the state; and the foundation of the Australian Science Media Centre in Adelaide.

The media centre is already operating in Adelaide, proactively promoting important Australian scientific research and breakthroughs in the mainstream media globally.

[top^](#)

UniSANews

- Archives
- Contacts
- Media Centre
- UniSA Home

The big picture

UniSA photography lecturer and studio head of photography and new media, Mark Kimber, has had a rare opportunity to work with one of the world's most unusual pieces of photographic equipment.

Grant support from the Australia Council and Arts SA allowed him to travel to the United States in 2003 and work in the prestigious Polaroid Studio in New York.

Two years on, the work he completed in the US has been exhibited in Madrid and Sydney and has won a place at the Monash Gallery of Art in Victoria as part of the Melbourne Festival.

Kimber's series of 20" x 24" photographs, entitled *By the Dawn's Early Light* were shot on one of only three Polaroid 20/24 cameras in the world.

"The cameras were designed to reproduce works of art but now they are being used as a creative tool in their own right," Kimber said.

By the Dawn's Early Light is a series of photos that examines the American and Australian cultural obsession with sports stars as heroes.

"The enormous adulation afforded male sporting heroes gives them an almost warrior-like status. It has the effect of blurring the borders between warring teams and the actual theatre of war," Kimber said.

"Recently real life caught up with the ideas behind the photo series when all-American pro-footballer Pat Tillman, left his superstar standing in the National Football League, to enlist in the US Army.

"His death, by friendly fire, brought a tragically ironic end to his star-spangled story.

"This series of photographs using toy store miniature models of these sports stars plays with the nexus between sport and war, while allowing the viewer to see past the myth-making process and uncover the fragile nature of these fabrications."

Kimber has recently displayed another photographic series entitled *Fictive Landscapes* at the Stills Gallery in Sydney and he is hopeful this work will be on show in Adelaide this year.



[top^](#)



UniSA News

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Education goes global

by Emma Masters

In our global and connected society – where millions of people travel the world daily and students can complete their entire university degree online – any notion of a quality education has to be international.

The past decade has seen the evolution of a new competitive market for higher education and some Australian universities have been particularly successful in offering their teaching, learning and research to a growing international audience.

While some more cynical media commentators portray this success as a “cash cow” approach, many believe international engagement is transforming education in the 21st century. It is true that the income generated by international students has provided important funds in a climate of diminishing government funding, but according to experts from UniSA, there are resounding philosophical reasons for internationalising the sector.



UniSA’s Director: International Rob Greig says that internationalisation is not just about attracting a fee-paying student market, it is also about building relationships across national borders.

“UniSA has students from all over the world coming to study in Adelaide and many more studying with the University offshore. We are one of the biggest providers of international education in the country,” Greig said.

“With international students comprising a third of UniSA’s student population, it places us in a strong position to really deliver on our promise to equip our graduates with an international perspective.

“We have good relationships with many universities across the world, particularly in Asia. These relationships are broad and include partnerships with other educational institutions, research collaborations with organisations and businesses, and more personal relationships with graduates through our growing alumni chapters.

“These are vital not just for our university, but for Australia because they make up a positive network in research and industry and in a broader sense, the global community.

“There are some great stories of research projects running overseas and student exchanges taking place. An example is the work being done in the School of Social Work and Social Policy – with local students going across to work in counselling in India, and Indian students coming here to do the same – it’s a real exchange of knowledge and experience.”

A report prepared for the Australian Vice Chancellors Committee (AVCC) by UniSA’s Language and Culture Research Centre, highlights the changes that internationalisation has brought to higher education.

“We have been looking at what we do in higher education because the movement of people and information is so much greater these days – and with people comes the movement of ideas and

knowledge,” head of the AVCC research project and the research centre, Associate Professor Angela Scarino said.

“Academics teaching offshore programs need to ensure quality is maintained across the board, in Australia and overseas. So we’ve been looking at a framework for how academics alter their materials, their courses and the way they teach so they are amenable to learning by different cultural groups.

“If we really want to internationalise all that we do and if we want students to understand what it means to have an international perspective, then we need to embrace a notion of intercultural education.

“To do that we need to be able to move into another’s space and allow them to move into ours. It’s understanding where others are coming from and what they make of what we offer, then understanding what we in turn make of their ideas through their cultural perspective and how we can learn from that and build it back into our programs.

“The framework we have developed is one that strives for genuine reciprocity.”

Like Scarino, Greig believes that the real positive of international education is that it fosters better understanding and tolerance.

“In the classroom, people are hearing from many different cultural points of view and gaining a broader understanding of the world,” Greig said.

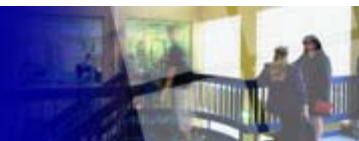
“And the networks and friendships students themselves are developing through studying together hold much promise for the future.

“It’s essential in today’s world that we do have an international outlook and that the programs we deliver have a significant international focus, that they’re not introspective.”

“In a world of air travel, instant messaging, the Internet, and mobile telecommunications we are no longer bound by a ‘tyranny of distance’. It is now more important than ever, for the development of students, the quality of the education we provide and the research we engage in, that we take an international approach – the results of that engagement will have long term benefits for future societies.”

[top^](#)





UniSA News

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Vice Chancellor wins South Australian of the year.

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley was recently named 2005 South Australian of the Year.

Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson presented Prof Bradley with the award at Partridge House during Proclamation Day celebrations in December.

The annual SA Great award honours individuals who have enhanced the reputation of the state through their outstanding contributions.

Prof Bradley received the award because of her long-term commitment to Adelaide as an international destination for quality education and research.

Vice Chancellor since 1997, Prof Bradley has led UniSA through a period of rapid change to become a significant contributor to the South Australian economy.

UniSA is now the largest university in the state, a major provider and exporter of education programs and a leader in applied research, contributing to South Australia's income and employment generation, social and cultural development and wealth creation.

Prof Bradley is one of only two women to win the South Australian of the Year Award in almost 20 years.

UniSA's Chancellor, David Klingberg AM, congratulated Prof Bradley on becoming a recipient of the prestigious award.

"This is an outstanding achievement for Denise, who I think you will all agree, has made a significant contribution, not only to the University of South Australia, but to the state and the education sector nationally and internationally."

[top^](#)



UniSA News

- Archives
- Contacts
- Media Centre
- UniSA Home

Games begin for Rhodes

The Commonwealth Games cycling team has just been announced and congratulations must go to those who made the team – including three riders from Team UniSA-Australia in this year’s Tour Down Under – Chris Jongerwaard, Matt Hayman and Ben Day. But special good wishes go to UniSA podiatry student, Alexis Rhodes who has made a most tenacious and amazing recovery from the terrible injuries she received in the same accident that took the life of Amy Gillet last year (also a student at UniSA). Her selection will probably come as no surprise to staff and students who know and work with Rhodes – they say she is an amazingly strong person. The whole University community wishes her every success in the Games.



[top^](#)

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS



UNISANEWS



University of South Australia

 Home  For Students  For Staff  Directory

UniSANEWS

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Magill hosts comedy fundraiser

Students and staff at Magill campus are joining forces to raise money to support one of their own. A comedy show will be held on March 7 in the Kaf to support the Colbert family and their four-year-old son who has Batten disease. Lorraine Colbert is a student at the campus. Batten disease is a fatal degenerative disorder (www.battens.org.au). The lunchtime comedy show will feature Michael Chamberlin, Charlie Pickering and Justin Hamilton. Entry is a gold coin donation and for a few more coins there is a sausage sizzle available too. All money raised will go to helping the family attend a national forum on the disease.

[top^](#)

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[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)

Latest content revision:Monday, 7 September 2009



UniSANEWS

[Archives](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Media Centre](#)
[UniSA Home](#)

A new era of information

by Emma Masters

In a world-first, UniSA has partnered with State Records SA (a business unit of the Department for Administrative and Information Services), the State Library of South Australia and Fuji Xerox to establish a Chair of Business Information Management.

The prestigious Chair, awarded to UniSA's Professor Paula Swatman, has been established to provide much-needed education and research in records, archival, library, knowledge and information management.

"Due to the rapid evolution of information technology, education and training in information management has increasingly taken place on the job," Prof Swatman said.

"The industry has been calling for more formal education and research and the University, government and business has responded."

Under Prof Swatman and a team of experts from the Chair's partner organisations, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees that bring together a number of interrelated courses at UniSA will be developed. They will include a focus on marketing, project management, customer service and leadership skills.

Prof Swatman said the ground-breaking initiative will graduate highly skilled information managers and produce cutting-edge research.

"The input of all partners will deliver strong education and research in an area that needs more focused attention – and we intend to deliver," Prof Swatman said.

"It's a real honour to be made the Chair of Business Information Management, especially when there is such a strong collaboration with education, government and industry."

The director of the State Library, Alan Smith, said the partnership between the institutions and business represents a strong commitment to the future of the information industry.

"The State Library has a legal responsibility to ensure the community has adequate research and information services," Smith said.

"This cannot be maintained without this radical new approach to information training. Our partnership in the establishment of the Chair is our commitment to the future."

And Managing Director of Fuji Xerox Australia, Phil Chambers, agrees.

"As we all deal with an ever-increasing flow of information, both in electronic and paper formats, we are proud to partner with UniSA and the SA government to launch the Chair of Business Information Management," Chambers said.

"These programs will ensure our information managers of the future are well equipped to deal with the challenges of the digital world."

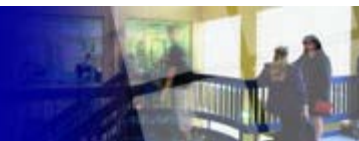


[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)

[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)

Latest content revision: Monday, 7 September 2009



UniSANEws

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Foundation chair

Professor Adrian Esterman has been appointed foundation chair of biostatistics, bringing a wealth of experience to UniSA's growing biostatistics and epidemiology team. Biostatistics and epidemiology are foundation sciences of health research, helping to track the causes of health issues from avian flu to hospital safety.

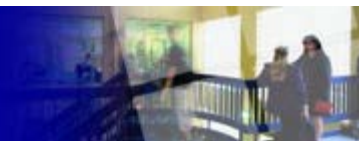
Well published and with a strong history of research grant success, Prof Esterman has broad research interests with some special focus on cancer epidemiology and environmental health.

Prof Esterman will lead a new research concentration in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, focusing on existing strengths in both mental health and cardiovascular disease. He will be developing a new teaching module in epidemiology and providing workshops on epidemiology and biostatistics to staff and students.

Prof Esterman will be presenting as part of the Body of Knowledge public lecture series for 2006. The event will be announced on the website www.unisa.edu.au/hsc/bok in the coming months.



[top^](#)



UniSANews

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

A new focus on Japan

by Andrew Lees

Japanese language and culture will have a special focus in UniSA's School of International Studies thanks to a \$140,000 funding boost from the Japan Foundation to support a new academic position.

Dr Laura Dales moved to Adelaide from Perth to take up her appointment as lecturer in the Japanese studies program and is thrilled with the opportunity to share her passion for the language and culture of the Japanese people.

She said her interest in Japanese culture grew from inauspicious beginnings when she studied Japanese language in high school mainly "because it was compulsory".

Years on, Dales completed a PhD in Japanese Studies at the University of Western Australia and is looking forward to introducing new courses to UniSA's Japanese Studies syllabus.

"I'd really like to be able to develop some new courses in gender identity and cultures in Japan. With our new degree in intercultural studies, culture becomes an important focus," Dr Dales said.

"I also want to promote the UniSA program outside of the University. It's an excellent program that is not as well known as it should be."

UniSA's Japanese program co-ordinator Dr Dave Chapman, said Dr Dales' appointment was a fantastic opportunity to expand on the already healthy interest in Japanese studies at UniSA.

"Laura brings enthusiasm and experience to the position," he said.

"Her research interests are also of value in adding depth to our study program. She brings in a different and broadening perspective."

[top^](#)

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[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)

Latest content revision: Monday, 7 September 2009



UniSANEWS

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

New Hawke Research Institute Director

By Geraldine Hinter

Studies of regional and remote communities will be part of the research focus within the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies, according to its new Director, Professor Alan Mayne, a historian who comes to UniSA from the University of Melbourne.

Prof Mayne has a strong record in developing a diverse and productive research culture. His studies into social life and social policy have generated extensive research networks and partnerships across academic disciplines and countries in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

Modern urban history has long been a major research focus for Prof Mayne, and he is now also exploring contemporary issues of justice and social disadvantage in third world cities, where massive urban growth has brought with it a raft of infrastructure and social problems that need to be effectively addressed.

More recently, Prof Mayne's research has broadened to include social sustainability in rural and regional communities.

"If we take Australia's wheat belt as an example, Australia is a key player in wheat production flowing into world markets, but the benefits don't flow back effectively in terms of social returns for those communities," Prof Mayne said.

"I will be encouraging studies of remote and regional areas and identifying strategies that enable us to capture a sense of the vitality that harnesses grassroots energy within these communities. This includes building communication links with remote Indigenous communities by working with them and for them," he said.

Prof Mayne will take up his new position in March, following the retirement of Professor Alison Mackinnon in December last year.

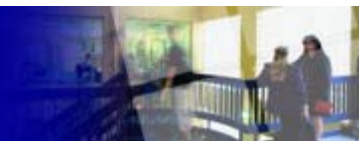
[top^](#)

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Web accessibility](#) | [CRICOS Provider no 00121B](#) | [Contact UniSA](#)
[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)
Latest content revision: Monday, 7 September 2009

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS



UNISANEWS



Home For Students For Staff Directory

UniSA News

[Archives](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Media Centre](#)
[UniSA Home](#)

Statewide engagement

by **Rebecca Gill**

As 2006 opens, UniSA's Whyalla campus and the Mount Gambier Regional Centre have merged to become The Centre for Regional Engagement – signalling a broader engagement with regional communities.

In a busy year of regional development, 2005 saw new degrees launched, the start of large-scale upgrades, and Mount Gambier celebrating its first year of operations.

At the end of last year a major landscaping project began in Whyalla, modernising the face of the campus and its surrounds. Inside, general renovations have considerably upgraded student facilities in computer pools and the library – and a new open plan community room has been established for aerobics/dance and fitness activities.



“We are moving into a very exciting growth phase that will bring benefits to our students, staff and the wider community,” said Professor Len Pullin, Director of UniSA's Centre for Regional Engagement (CRE).

Both the state and federal governments have injected significant funding into the CRE, acknowledging UniSA as a strategic vehicle for regional education, research and industry partnerships. In 2005 the state government provided \$650,000 in funding, and the federal government pledged a further \$1.6 million to assist with major developments to the Mount Gambier Regional Centre which is co-located with TAFESA at the Wireless Road site.

Three new Business and Enterprise programs offering specialist studies in accounting and business enterprise are also beginning this year – adding to the already diverse mix of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees available at CRE.

Prof Pullin said that 2006 would see the continued growth and success of UniSA's regional centres.

“It's an exciting time for regional South Australia because we are experiencing a significant improvement by broadening the range of facilities and activities we are able to provide for both students and the wider community.”

[top^](#)

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[Site help](#) | [Open Day](#) | [UniSA Events Calendar](#) | [Read this page](#)
Latest content revision: Monday, 7 September 2009

UniSA News

- [Archives](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Media Centre](#)
- [UniSA Home](#)

Healthy meal

by **Rebecca Gill**

Meal replacement drinks are emerging as a popular meal alternative for people juggling a hectic working life – and researchers at UniSA are testing new beverages that are expected to provide more health benefits than other commercial brands currently on the market.

Volunteers are being sought to trial two new dairy-based meal replacement drinks expected to improve mood, suppress appetite, and aid weight loss.

Professor Peter Howe and Dr Jon Buckley are the key researchers and organisers of the study, which is being undertaken at the University's Nutritional Physiology Research Centre.

Dr Buckley said that the western world is in the middle of an obesity epidemic – and with this comes associated physical and psychological problems such as diabetes, stroke, cancer and depression.

"This product is another potential tool in the armoury to fight against the current obesity epidemic and the negative psychological and health effects that are associated with being obese.

"In test tube studies components in the drinks have been shown to stimulate the release of hormones which regulate mood and hunger. We are expecting that these drinks will improve people's mood while at the same time making them feel fuller so they will not want to eat as much. In the long term, this can lead to weight loss, or prevent weight gain in people who are presently not overweight, while helping people to feel a bit better during the whole process," Dr Buckley said.

Participants will need to attend UniSA's City East campus on Frome Road for four mornings in February and March.

During this time participants will be subjected to blood sampling as well as mood and hunger assessments. They will fast overnight, and once tests are completed, can eat as much as they want from a cold buffet.

To be eligible for the study, volunteers must be male, reasonably healthy, aged between 18-50 years and either normal weight or obese. An honorarium will be paid upon completion of the study.

For further information, or to see if you are eligible for this study, contact Erin Riley on (08) 8302 2097 between 9am-4pm Monday to Friday, or leave a message any time or email nutritional.physiology@unisa.edu.au

[top^](#)