

[For staff](#)

[For the media](#)

[For alumni](#)

[For potential donors](#)

[For prospective international students](#)

> [Publications](#) > [The Graduate Index](#) >

The Graduate

A publication of the University of South Australia

September 2003

Regular sections

[New Leaf](#)

[A little taste of ...](#)

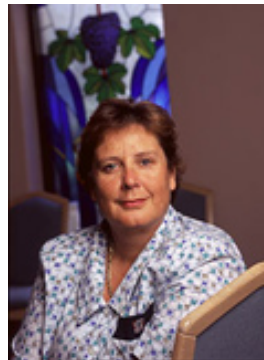
[Career moves](#)

Main stories

Making the journey and keeping the faith

How one UniSA graduate is caring for cancer patients

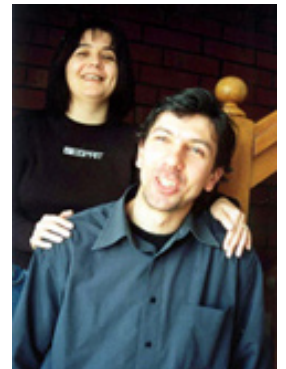
[Full story](#)



Building a new life by degrees

How going back to uni helped Suzana and Nedzad Hanic get their lives back on track

[Full story](#)



Work/life balance seminar a success

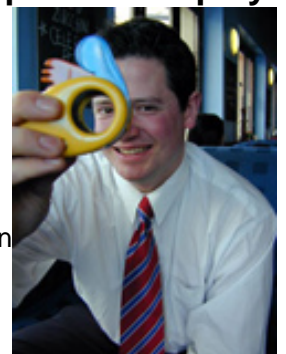
How to achieve balance in *your* life

[Full story](#)

New toy on the way to encourage open-ended play

Industrial design graduate's design on the road to commercialisation

[Full story](#)



Other stories

[Passion for painting pays off](#)

[Offshore graduations](#)

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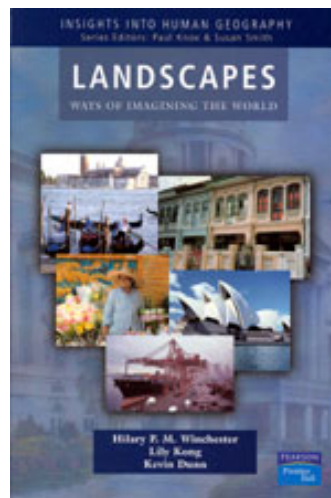
[!\[\]\(f1c5da15572e3e09d343161be98f508d_img.jpg\) Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > September 2003](#)

New Leaf

compiled by **Charlotte Knottenbelt**



Hilary Winchester, Lily Kong, Kevin Dunn;
***Landscapes: Ways of Imagining the World*; 206**
pages; £21.99; ISBN 0-582-28878-9; published by
Pearson Education Limited

Landscapes: Ways of Imagining the World is a contemporary analysis of the meaning of cultural landscapes. From the place-creating power of films to the evolving gastronomic landscapes created by cultural fusion, the book delves into the layers of meaning invested in cultural landscapes the world over.

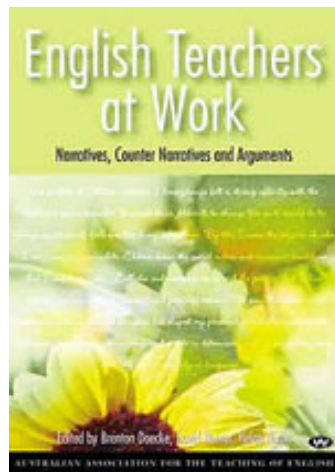
Written by UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor for Organisational Change and Development, Professor Hilary Winchester, with Lily Kong (Professor of Geography at the National University of Singapore) and Kevin Dunn (geography lecturer at the University of New South Wales), *Landscapes* throws a critical eye on both exotic and everyday landscapes, moving beyond the Anglo-American emphasis of much of human geography.

Landscapes – from the multicultural city to the anorexic body – are seen by the authors as contested spaces of power and resistance, and as visible manifestations of ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality.

While aimed primarily at geography students and academics, the book is written in a narrative style that makes it accessible to anyone with an interest in human geography and cultural studies.

In the tradition of the first geographers, *Landscapes* is an exploration – engaging cultures and landscapes as interesting as those encountered by the first Muslim and Greek geographers.

The book can be ordered online at www.pearson-books.com



Brenton Doecke, David Homer, Helen Nixon (editors); *English Teachers at Work*, 240 pp; \$39.95; APN 9781862546158; published by Wakefield Press and the Australian Association for the Teaching of English

How is globalisation affecting English teachers' work?
What can English teachers from different national settings learn by engaging in dialogue with one another?
And what impact have government policies and curricula

had on English teachers' sense of professional identity? These are just some of the questions raised and discussed in *English Teachers at Work*.

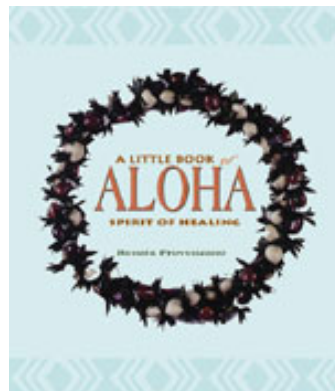
Launched on July 6 at the International Federation for the Teaching of English (IFTE) conference in Melbourne, the book was edited by IFTE president David Homer (who lectures at UniSA's School of Communication, Information and New Media), Helen Nixon (from UniSA's School of Education), and Brenton Doecke (from Monash University's School of Education).

The book offers a richly differentiated view of current English teaching, as a site for dialogue and debate as much as agreement and consensus.

With a strong narrative component, foregrounding the situated nature of English teachers' experiences, it embodies a dialectical play between arguments about the nature of subject English and the rich particularities of specific communities.

The book can be ordered via the internet at www.wakefieldpress.com.au/books/englishteachersatwork.html or by emailing aate@aate.org.au

The Graduate has a copy of the book to give away. To be in the running email your name and contact details to unisa.news@unisa.edu.au marked attention: *English Teachers at Work Giveaway*.



Renata Provenzano; *A Little Book of Aloha – Spirit of Healing*; 112 pp; US \$10.95; ISBN 1-56647-592-9; Mutual Publishing.

A Little Book of Aloha – Spirit of Healing is the second book about Hawaii written by UniSA journalism graduate Renata Provenzano. If the success of the first is any indication, then this book is destined for big things –

Provenzano's original Little Book of Aloha is now into its fourth print run and has been adopted by the Ritz Carton Kapalua on Maui as a corporate gift for VIPs.

While the first 'little book' was a collection of traditional Hawaiian proverbs and sayings, *Spirit of Healing* focuses on traditional Hawaiian healing practices, and provides tips on how to incorporate their holistic ideals into everyday life.

Through interviews with healers across the islands, proverbs, anecdotes and photography, Provenzano explores an approach to healing which emphasises the importance of living in harmony with nature and oneself.

The book contains chapters on forgiveness, balance, reverence for the earth and dozens of herbal remedies.

"Hawaiians understand good health has so much to do with the whole body and everything around you - your environment, family, the work you do and what you've done in the past," she says. "From surfing to watching the stars or dancing the hula, life in Hawaii is about balance, connecting with the earth and understanding all is exactly as it is meant to be."

A Little Book of Aloha – Spirit of Healing is available at Hawaiian bookshops and via the web at www.booklines.com

 [Back to top](#)

[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective international students](#)[> Publications > September 2003](#)

A LITTLE taste of...

Chopsticks - the long and the short of it

by **Sophie Davies**

Chopsticks, otherwise known as 'Cho-kara' here in Korea, are the eating tool of choice in North Eastern Asia. Interestingly though, each country has developed their own individual chopstick etiquette and culture through the times.

For starters, did you realise that the Japanese use short wooden ones, the Chinese use long, plastic ones and the Koreans use thin, medium sized metal ones? (which can result in expensive dental procedures if not handled carefully!)

Let's start with the Koreans – it is believed the Korean people descend from the early Siberians/Mongols who were traditional hunters from the cold North. Originally these savage hunters would have simply stabbed the meat with their hunting knives, which over time evolved into metal chopsticks.

Secondly, ancient Korean royalty believed silver turned black when exposed to poison or spoiled food, thus silver chopsticks were used in royal company to guard against poisoned food.

Nowadays you can buy 'forkchops', simply two chopsticks attached with a special grip for your thumb and forefinger, ideal for kiddies and klutzy westerners.

Koreans, unlike other North-Eastern Asians, eat their rice with a spoon. When Confucius equated knives with aggression and forbade them from his table, the Chinese are believed to have invented Chopsticks. Stemming from sticks or twigs used to pull food out of hot cooking pots, nowadays the Chinese eat a lot of fried food and use longer plastic chopsticks to avoid being burnt or splattered with oil.

The Japanese historically felt that rice was very precious, so originally mixed their rice with other more abundant grains, like millet, making their rice less sticky (Korean rice is very sticky) and more slippery.

Instead of using a spoon (like we would) they brought their bowls closer to their mouth, thus to avoid constant black eyes! They shortened their chopsticks.

And remember never leave chopsticks in a bowl after your meal (denotes a funeral) and never bang them incessantly on the table – the waitress will come and poke her chopsticks in your eye!

Sophie Davies, a UniSA marketing graduate, is currently taking a break from

marketing while working as an English teacher in Korea.

 **Back to top**

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[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective international students](#)[> Publications > September 2003](#)

Career moves



Kim Kwang 'Raymond' Choo graduated from UniSA in 2002 with a Masters of Information Technology and a Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons) Industrial and Applied Maths. He is now in Brisbane pursuing PhD studies with the Information Security Research Centre at the Queensland University of Technology. He says his experience with UniSA was "very enjoyable" and remains "a solid springboard for future career and academic advancement."



Anna LePoidevin has taken up a position at UniSA's Marketing and Development Unit (MDU) as publications content officer. Anna graduated from UniSA with a Bachelor of Arts (Professional Writing and Communication) in 2000 and has worked as an editor and writer at the MDU for the past 12 months. "I very much enjoy the process of publication development – even though it can be long, complex and challenging at times," says Anna. "I also really like the idea that I'm providing prospective students with the information they need to make an informed decision about studying with us."

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

[▲ Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > September 2003](#)

Making the journey and keeping the faith

by [Thel Krollig](#)

Statistics show that one in three people in South Australia will be diagnosed with cancer by the time they are 75. The other two will know someone with cancer. Chances are many of these people will cross paths with Helen Walker, the clinical manager of the Calvary Cancer Centre and the Mary Potter Hospice.

According to Walker, the position she holds is one of privilege and enormous importance as she travels the journey with cancer patients, their families and their friends.



“Fortunately improvements in research and patient care means that more than 55 per cent of people diagnosed with cancer will survive. For others it is an end of life experience,” she says.

It was the death from cancer of several close friends that inspired Walker to return to nursing after an 18 year break from the profession.

“I became deeply interested in end of life issues and the opportunities that working in oncology and palliative care offers to make a difference, if you do your job well,” she said.

What also attracted her was the multi-disciplinary team effort that goes into treating cancer.

“It is a really great professional experience to work with a team of nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, pastoral care workers, psychologists and dieticians whose sole focus is improving the health and wellbeing of a patient, whether that is on the road to recovery or easing into death.

“The very nature of this disease seems to inspire mutual respect and regard for the input of everyone in our multi-disciplinary team. And I can honestly say there is not a day that I wake up and think I don’t want to go to work. Because I know that every day that I am at Calvary I am making a difference to someone’s life.”

Walker believes one of the key attributes of being a good oncology nurse is the ability to take the journey travelled by a cancer patient, but to always realise that you are accompanying a person on that journey. That it isn’t your journey and health professionals are in a very privileged position.

“People working in the field of oncology become very involved in the life of the patient and their families. And at Calvary we recognise the importance of debriefing when one of our patients has died.

“We will always talk about what has happened, how the staff are feeling, how the experience affected them and work through any emotional issues. This is an important step in being able to remain engaged on one level, but to also stand apart from the death of a person you have grown to know really well.”

Walker’s position as clinical manager also affords her the opportunity to apply the business principles she honed while working in the public and corporate sector.

“Much of what I do also involves business planning, marketing, human resource management, identifying opportunities for service growth and to expand into new areas such as complementary therapies in the field of oncology and palliative care.

“It is also part of my role to nurture the spiritual focus of the Mary Potter Hospice with the wonderful pastoral care team, which is an integral part of who we are at Calvary. Mary Potter and the sisters of the Little Company of Mary worked exceptionally hard to establish a health service of this calibre and it is unique in the way patients and families are treated. We need to carry this tradition on.”

When Walker returned to hands-on nursing just three years ago she was faced with not only opposition from peers, who viewed her return as a step down, but also the significant changes in the profession. Technology, length of stay and medication were just some of the areas where there had been dramatic changes.

“Fortunately through studying the six month re-entry nursing program at UniSA, I felt really confident about taking on these new challenges. I was also hugely buoyed by the support and help of the staff in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at UniSA.

“Nursing can be a very difficult and challenging job. Nurses working in oncology and palliative care are highly committed to their practice. We are often under resourced which throws up challenges in my line of work. But it also gives me the opportunity to be creative and stimulated in my job every single day.”

 [Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > September 2003](#)

Building a new life by degrees

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

When Nedzad and Suzana Hanic arrived in Australia as refugees in 1997, they gave themselves two years, planning to return to their native Bosnia if things didn't work out. Six years later and the couple have each graduated with a Bachelor of Adult and Vocational Education from UniSA, are both in jobs they love, and are looking forward to a happy and productive future in their adopted home in Adelaide.

It sounds like a fairytale but of course it wasn't that easy. When the Hanics left their

home in war-torn Sarajevo they also effectively gave up their careers – Suzana was a well-known radio and TV journalist, while Nedzad, a former sprinting champion, left behind his work as an athletics coach.

Both already had bachelor degrees – Suzana in journalism and Nedzad in sport science – but with limited English in a new country these qualifications stood for little.

"It was a really shocking experience," says Suzana. "I had an excellent job, so giving that up and coming to Australia as a refugee was very hard for me in terms of self-esteem.



“But I realised my options as a journalist in Australia were limited, and so decided to move on to something else.”

After studying English at TAFE, the Hanics decided to enrol in UniSA's Bachelor of Adult and Vocational Education program, mainly because of the flexibility it offered. While Nedzad wanted to get back into coaching and education, Suzana didn't want to be limited to a teaching role.

“It's not only about being an educator, you can be a coordinator, run community programs, the possibilities are quite broad,” says Suzana, who is now working as a training and placement coordinator for Mission Australia.

Nedzad (who now teaches medieval history, phys ed and integrated studies at Cabra Dominican College and coaches soccer at Mercedes College) says the fact that the degree took three years – as opposed to the four required to qualify as a primary school teacher – was also a deciding factor.

“It wasn't easy, because of the language barrier. Not feeling very confident and being in a class hearing others speaking English perfectly at first set me back,” he says.

“But things started to change and I started to make friends. My grades went from P1s in first year to credits in the second, and distinctions in the third year.”

As for differences between the Australian and Bosnian education systems, well, they could just about write a book on it.

“In Bosnia we had to do more subjects, we had exams for all of them, and open book exams were unheard of,” says Suzana.

“While that system gave us both a really good general knowledge of a lot of subjects, when I reflect on it I'd say they probably pushed us to learn more than we needed.

“What I like about the Australian system is being able to choose books and research topics that I'm interested in, not just reading the books the lecturers want us to.

“Here it's more student centred. We're encouraged to look at the facts and make up our own minds.”

 [Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > September 2003](#)

Work/life balance seminar a success

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

More than 200 UniSA graduates and students proved that the quest for work/life balance is as strong as ever when they attended a UniSA Expanding Horizons seminar on the topic on August 7.

And guest speakers Dr James Cowley and Shivani Reiter (pictured right) didn't disappoint.

Reiter, a UniSA engineering and MBA graduate who now runs her own business consulting firm, emphasised the importance of not letting work commitments override other important aspects of your life.

Reiter offered a practical way of evaluating and improving balance through the 'wheel of life', and here's how you do it: draw a circle and divide it up into pieces of pie representing different aspects of your life, (for example diet, relationships, finances, exercise.) Assuming the centre of the circle represents zero, and the circumference of the circle 10, rate each life aspect on a scale of one to 10 (with 10 meaning you're doing very well, zero not at all well) by placing a dot somewhere between the centre and edge of the circle. Now join up the dots and voila – if you've got a large circle then you're probably quite well balanced. If your wheel looks more like a star then you may have some balancing to work on!

Reiter even got the audience singing – "release of endorphins helps reduce stress, and singing is one of the best forms of release," she said.

Dr Cowley, a UniSA business and management graduate, shared some pearls of



wisdom from his book *I need balance in my life – achieving the dream of the 21st century*.

First pointing out some of the signals of a lack of work/life balance (such as not having time for relationships), Dr Cowley went on to explain that solutions lay in three areas: functional, personal and cultural.

Functional solutions that could help in the quest for balance include employer provisions such as childcare, while personal solutions were about knowing what you want out of life and work. As for the cultural, the important thing is to continue to question our assumptions about the way things should be done.

For full transcripts on the Expanding Horizons *Balancing Your Life* seminar, visit the UniSA Alumni website at www.alumni.net.au

[▲ Back to top](#)


[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > September 2003](#)

New toy on the way to encourage open-ended play

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

Three to five year olds, get ready – Molda is on its way, and it can pattern, roll, flatten and noodle plasticine, play doh, clay or cookie mixture into whatever shapes you want.

Molda is the brainchild of UniSA industrial design graduate Sam Beaumont, and with a little luck, a lot of planning and some help from UniSA's commercialisation company ITEK, it could be on its way to the shelves of a toy store near you.

Beaumont came up with the idea of a compact multi-function moulding tool for kids when he went to a kindergarten to research children's toys as part of his final year industrial design studies last year.

"They had a big box filled with bits and pieces that they used for playing with play doh and I thought why not have a compact toy that does the same things as all those things in that box," he says.

He did some research and to his dismay found that there was already a similar toy on the market. However, encouraged by his lecturer Peter Schumacher, Beaumont decided to persevere and develop his own unique design – one that encourages open-ended play and where quality and durability are paramount.

"My design is aimed at letting children create what they want to create, allowing their imagination to drive them rather than the toy," he says.



And so far the children who have tested the toy have given it the thumbs up. "I've had it tested by a group of preschoolers who liked it a lot, and it certainly kept my five year old nephew amused when he tried it out."

When ITEK heard about Beaumont's design, they recognised its potential, and offered support to commercialise the product. "We were impressed with Sam's inventiveness, creativity and practical skills as a designer," says ITEK marketing coordinator, Debbie Thomson.

With the Australian toy industry worth more than \$1.4 billion in retail sales each year, it could be a lucrative venture. But if big bucks are to be made, that will be well down the track, and until then Beaumont is keeping his feet firmly planted on the ground, and putting his industrial design skills to use working for an exhibition display company.

"I don't think I'll give up my day job just yet," he laughs. "It's going to be a steep learning curve. I think it's important to be optimistic but also expect that there will be some challenges and setbacks."

 [Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > September 2003](#)

Passion for painting pays off

by Karen Williams

Many people might think that accountancy and painting don't mix, but Abbas Mehran has mastered both.

Mehran – who graduated from UniSA with a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) in 1999 – is the winner in the Waterhouse Natural History

Art Prize, oil, acrylic or mix category, announced on August 8.

His winning entry, *On Guard*, is a mixture of visual representations of Iranian and Australian cultures. An Australian gum tree with native fruits is surrounded by Australian flora and endangered fauna.

It is a variation of the 'tree of life' theme which is often featured in Persian rugs. A kangaroo, emu and koala stand guard, and Mehran believes that they make quite a statement.

"They almost seem to be saying to the viewer that humans have failed to guard the tree of life, so we animals will do it ourselves," he said.

Mehran left his native Iran in 1979 and moved to Argentina, then to the United States, where his untapped talents surfaced.

Having a management background, he did further study and graduated as a certified internal auditor there in 1988, and worked for a number of years in that role.

But his love of painting always lingered just under the surface, as evidenced by some seemingly unstudious behaviour.

"My mind would wander. I used to sit in auditing seminars analysing the paintings and prints on the walls, rather than listening to what the lecturers were saying," he said.



“I completed my studies due to a strong sense of family commitment and duty, but I always felt that I had the potential to paint,” Mehran said.

He became interested in painting in 1972, when he read a book about Van Gogh which sparked an interest and planted a seed in his subconscious – a seed which took more than 20 years to come to fruition. He decided to follow his dreams.

Mehran’s dreams have served him well. His long list of prizes include jointly winning the 2003 SoHo International Art Competition in New York, and he was acclaimed as best new talent of the year 2000 by *The Advertiser*.

For more information about the Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, visit www.thewaterhouse.com.au

 [Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective international students](#)[> Publications > September 2003](#)

Offshore graduations



Hundreds of UniSA's offshore graduates attended a series of alumni functions in Asia in July. With reunions, graduations and dinners held in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, the events were a chance to network and reconnect with lecturers and friends – and a chance to meet special guests including UniSA's Vice Chancellor Denise Bradley and Chancellor David Klingberg. Pictured above are some of the Singapore graduates with the Chancellor at their cocktail reunion.

[▲ Back to top](#)