



[For staff](#)

[For the media](#)

[For alumni](#)

[For potential donors](#)

[For prospective international students](#)

[> Publications > Students@UniSA index](#)

# Students@UniSA

A newspaper for students of University of South Australia

October/November 2002

## Regular sections

- [Cartoon](#)
- [Poetry](#)

## Main stories

### Children of the '80s unite for art's sake



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## Team sport triumph in Australian Uni Games

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## Other stories

### [A bloody good cause](#)

The hangout area of Mawson Lakes, Building F, was transformed for one day on September 3 when the Australian Red Cross Blood Service rolled into town.

### [Ensuring a fair go for all students](#)

Associate Professor Roger Windle has dealt with many enquiries since he began as UniSA's first Student Ombud in August this year.

### [Student-employer seminars a hit](#)

The 2002 Student - Employer seminars have been heralded as the "biggest ever" in the event's seven year history.

### [Russian history inspires award-winning etching](#)

Larissa Rogacheva-Fraser has been creating art since she was picked out to go to a specialist art school as a 10 year old in St Petersburg, Russia.

### [Prestigious Hawker Scholarships up for grabs](#)

Undergraduate and postgraduate students are being invited to apply for one of Australia's richest scholarships.

### [Making the grade - book giveaway](#)

Does the thought of having to make a presentation fill you with dread? Confused about writing a bibliography? Or maybe you'd like some tips on how to research effectively using the internet.

## Extras

### [Marcin wins a laptop for sharing his experiences](#)

The online 2002 Student Experiences Questionnaire has now been completed and the University is delighted with the huge increase in response rate. More than 7,000 responses were received from a survey population of around 21,000 – a 33 per cent response rate.

### [Salisbury's learning champions](#)

Achieving against the odds is not unfamiliar to UniSA student Denise Williams, who has been recognised as one of the City of Salisbury's Learning Champions for her exceptional individual achievement in learning and positive contribution to the Salisbury community.

## February/March 2003 issue of **Students@UniSA**

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Copy should be sent by email to [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au)

or disk to Students@UniSA, Marketing and Development Unit, City West.

Include all related files, such as pictures, non-standard fonts (screen and printer), logos, other graphics.

[Click here to view guidelines for contributors](#)

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**Design:** Visual Communications Consultancy

South Australian School of Art

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[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective  
international students](#)[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Poetry

### Car wrecks

We look at car wrecks  
in Oodnadatta  
we have walked off the main street  
through the red sand  
with prickly sticking bushes  
which we don't notice

there are 140 car wrecks  
if there were ten more  
the government would remove them  
there are 140 car wrecks  
we laugh among them  
the rust the metal the faded shapes  
we run and laugh  
and take photographs  
among the lack of license plates  
engines, anything valuable

we sit on trunks  
and I laugh to the camera  
the flash goes off again and again  
smashed old car bodies  
are captured  
framing us  
and the red sun in the red sand  
frames the red rust  
and us

a saltbush grows out a right side front door  
which someone might never  
have walked out of  
we laugh and feel young  
with these cars  
we dance on a graveyard  
we have a fest  
on the frames  
which used to carry people  
or are we just creating art  
with our cameras?

people have driven these cars  
turned the steering wheels  
with sweaty hands  
pushed the pedals  
with shoes covered in red dust  
people have worked extra shifts  
to pay the mortgages  
on these cars

people have driven these cars  
and never come home  
we laugh in the last warm  
redness  
of this day  
among these empty bodies  
and we care  
about the memories we create  
in this moment

by Hilde Haraldseid

## Poetry competition

Fancy yourself as a modern-day Wordsworth or TS Elliot? Or perhaps you're of the Dorothy Porter or Jewel schools. Whatever your poetry style, don't let it go unread – send it in to the Students@UniSA poetry competition. Some of the best entries will be published, with one winning a \$50 book voucher, donated by the kind people at Imprints Booksellers. The competition is open to all enrolled UniSA students. Entries should be emailed to [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au)

The winner of this issue's competition is Hilde Haraldseid. [To read some of the other entries, click here.](#)

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Children of the '80s unite for art's sake

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)



Those who thought terry towelling, hoop earrings and leg warmers would never be cool again were proved wrong on September 28 when 200 disco bunnies donned their '80s regalia with childish glee for a roller disco at the old Downtown on Hindley Street.

Sweat bands, large glasses, lace tops and ra-ra skirts were also thick on the ground as the crowd skated, break-danced and played Atari to some well-



loved -- yet until then long-forgotten -- hits of the '80s pumped out by the deejays.

Not just an amusing attempt by a group of 20-somethings to re-live their lost youth, the event had another purpose -- to raise funds for a new art space being set up by a UniSA student and four graduates.

Masters student Andrew Best, along with Chris Flanagan, Louise Flaherty, Viv Miller and Bridget Currie are all directors of the fledgling Downtown Art Space, which they are establishing to fill a gap in the Adelaide art scene.

"There was a real need for an artist-run space in Adelaide, especially one that was properly curated, so we decided to pool our resources to make it happen," says Best.

"It will be a chance to open up a really slick, contemporary space. But we're not trying to replicate things that are seen in other galleries. It's a chance for more experimental, younger, riskier work to have a place."

The project has been aided by a grant from UniSA and support from the Weimer Room, which has donated the use of the space itself.

After raising \$1300 from the roller disco, the directors are now setting about painting and lighting the space (which is in the area where the dodgem cars used to be when it was an amusement arcade) in readiness for its launch at 7pm on October 24.

The first exhibition, Plans and Disasters, will feature work from the art spaces' directors, exploring the theme of disasters from a post September 11 perspective.

Second up will be an exhibition of videos about love, Film That Breaks Hearts - Modern Love Stories, due to open on November 21 at 7pm, and curated by UniSA students Jim Strickland and Bianca Barling (otherwise known as The Modern Love Collective). Also in planning is California, an exhibition that will celebrate summer in all its glory. (Expect another party!)

Best says the directors are welcoming proposals for exhibitions, from both established and emerging artists, and that students from UniSA's South Australian School of Art are particularly encouraged to make use of the space. For more information email the directors at [downtownadelaide@yahoo.com.au](mailto:downtownadelaide@yahoo.com.au).

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)

[For the media](#)

[For alumni](#)

[For potential donors](#)

[For prospective international students](#)

> [Publications](#) > [Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Bravery award a double-edged sword for shark attack hero [by Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)



More than two and a half years after Stephen Thomas made headlines the world over for saving his

mate

Anthony Hayes from a vicious shark attack at Cactus Beach on South Australia's West Coast, the UniSA student has received an award for his bravery.

With the approval of none other than Queen Elizabeth II, Steve -- a second year Biodiversity, Environmental and Park Management student -- was presented with the Star of Courage award at a Government House ceremony.

Not being the kind of person who likes to blow his own trumpet, 29-year-old Steve says that while receiving the award provided him with a sense of closure, he's not sure his actions deserve the attention they attracted.

"There were a lot of other people there receiving

awards in recognition of 30 or 40 years of work, and there I was, all because of a freak accident," he says.

"Anthony has not been able to work since the attack, a few of his fingers still don't work, and he's just had another operation. When he's had so much taken away from him I feel a bit guilty for getting all the glory."

But Steve is the first to admit that there was a bright side to the media frenzy sparked by the rescue. He and Anthony were able to make some money (compensation as they see it) by selling their story to New Idea and 60 Minutes.

"If it had been a car accident or something, then there might have been some compensation," he says, "but given it was the law of nature there was nothing to cover him for the loss of income.

"While the experience would be enough to put most people off going in the water -- let alone surfing -- again, both Steve and Anthony have faced their fears, returning to Cactus Beach earlier this year courtesy of Channel 10, who decided to revisit the story when it was announced that Steve had won the award. They surfed in two different spots, and while Steve says it was a bit scary at one point, they got through it and have no intention of giving up surfing.

"Theoretically we should have a get out of jail free card - you think you've been struck by lightning once, there's not much chance of it happening again," he says.

"Sometimes it does enter my mind but I have to tell myself not to be such a wuss. It's like not flying in a plane because you've seen an accident on TV. It would be a shame for people

to stay out of the water because of it."

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Daniel's design on its way to the shelf



Twenty-one-year-old Daniel Roberts has a head start in his quest to enter the competitive world of industrial design, with his final year project on the road to commercialisation -- and it all started thanks to a tip from Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.

The fourth year industrial design student was listening to Dr Karl on Triple J, who was talking about the street light covers in Venice, which thanks to the old style design, don't dull the appearance of stars at night.

"It got me thinking about scientific ideas that could be developed into products," says Daniel.

Dr Karl encouraged him to look for a commercial collaborator by putting a note on his website, and soon the research director of scientific

equipment manufacturer, Multitrator, was knocking on Daniel's door -- or at least emailing him.

The Queensland-based company manufactures and markets titrators, which are scientific analysis tools that measure the chemical content of all kinds of matter, from acidity in wine to chloride in drinking water.

The brief was to design a new titrator, something compact and colourful that would stand out from the grey boxes that dominate the market.

"They were looking for a radically different looking model," says Daniel. "Essentially the design I came up with is a streamlined version of their current model -- it performs the same functions, but it doesn't require a separate computer to drive the unit. It takes up much less benchspace and is easier to set up and use."

Multitrator's research director Tom Smith was impressed with Daniel's design, and is planning to take it to trade displays in the US to gauge potential demand.

Daniel has entered into a royalty sharing agreement, so if the product takes off he may have created himself a nice little earner.

But he's not rubbing his hands together just yet. He says even if he doesn't make much money, it will have been a worthwhile experience.

"It's great to get some real-world experience and to design something that's got the possibility of being on the shelf one day. I think it's prepared me well for going on to get a job."

[▲ Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)

[For the media](#)

[For alumni](#)

[For potential donors](#)

[For prospective international students](#)

[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Team sport triumph in Australian Uni Games



UniSA put in its best performance in this year's Australian University Games, with its 140-strong team winning eight gold, seven silver and two bronze medals.

The games, held in Adelaide for the first time from September 26 to October 4, attracted an estimated 6,000 athletes from all over Australia.

UniSA's greatest strength was in team sports, where we took the gold in men's cricket, women's and men's volleyball and the men's water polo.

In a closely-fought final, UniSA's water polo team, led by Australian representatives Adam and Grant Richardson, beat the University of Queensland, scoring 19 goals to 16.

Students Association recreation officer, Julie Anderson, said the success in the men's cricket took everyone by surprise.

"We only found out we could compete when we won a wild card entry a couple of weeks before the games, so we got the team together fairly quickly, and I don't think anyone

expected us to do so well," she said.

In other results, the Taekwondo team won medals of all colours, with Tom Lowe winning Green and Gold selection, giving him a good chance to compete in the World University Games next year in Korea.

Julio Garayua won gold in the over 100kg judo, while Mary Lange won silver in the shotput, and James Hannam won silver in two cycling events, including the 150km road race, in which he crossed the lined second thanks to a little help from team manager, Michael Gates.

Hannam, a 19-year-old commerce student, was in the leading peleton when he got a flat tyre. Luckily Gates was on hand to offer his Hannam wheel, allowing him to re-join the race.

Anderson said that UniSA had every reason to be proud of its performance.

"I just want to say it was a pretty inspirational performance for such a small group of athletes. Going into day four with four teams in the finals was good enough, but for all of them to win was an amazing feeling," she said.

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective international students](#)[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## **A bloody good cause**

**by Noel Towell**

The hangout area of Mawson Lakes, Building F, was transformed for one day on September 3 when the Australian Red Cross Blood Service rolled into town.

Students, staff and employees from Technology Park rolled up their sleeves and squeezed out a few drops for a good cause.

Donating blood works like this: You need to have something to eat at least two-four hours before donating and approximately one litre of water to drink. All donors are required to complete a Donor Declaration Form before donating. This confidential form asks questions about your general health and is designed to protect you and the person who receives your blood. Next you'll be interviewed, have your haemoglobin (iron content) and blood pressure checked, and then it's on to the couch.

Some potential donors don't make it onto the couch. Anyone who has lived in or visited England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland (not the Republic of Ireland), the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, between January 1, 1980 and December 31, 1996 for a cumulative period of six months or more is not eligible to donate blood in Australia until further notice. This is because of a theoretical risk that you might have been exposed to mad cow disease.

Some reasons for temporary deferral are colds, illness or operation, certain medications including antibiotics, pregnancy and recent tattoos.

Two disappointed hopefuls are Pierre and Laure, two researchers on exchange from Paris. They're going home in a couple of weeks, which rules them out because of the difficulty of contacting them should the need arise. Your Students@UniSA correspondent is also ineligible (mad cow).

Donors are given a local anaesthetic if requested so even if you don't like needles the whole thing is painless. A donation of 470ml is collected, which is less than 10 per cent of your total blood volume. Samples are also collected to determine blood group and screened for HIV 1 and 2, Hepatitis B and C, HTLV 1 and 2 and syphilis.

The blood will be transferred to the central blood bank on Pirie Street in the city where it has a shelf life of about six weeks.

Twenty minutes recovery time is recommended. Cold drinks and biscuits are served by volunteer Grata Verschoor. Some bloke insists that he should receive a beer for his donation. He doesn't get one and goes stalking off towards The Isobar (Mawson Lakes watering hole) with his mates in search of a coldie.

Lynley, recruitment officer at the blood service, has some sobering statistics for anyone who was thinking of leaving it up to everyone else. Only 3 per cent of the population give blood and up to 80 per cent will receive blood in their lifetime.

The next UniSA blood drive is due to take place at Mawson Lakes next year. You can arrange to give blood through the Australian Red Cross

Blood Service by calling 13 14 95.

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective international students](#)[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Ensuring a fair go for all students



Associate Professor Roger Windle has dealt with many enquiries since he began as UniSA's first Student Ombud in August this year.

"In recent times there's been a growing expectation amongst the student population -- and society in general -- about receiving fair and equitable treatment, and I see this as a real positive," he says. "We want to deliver quality education, and a process like this has the potential to make things better."

The Student Ombud position is the first of its kind in a South Australian university, and was created to deal with student complaints that cannot be resolved through other channels (such as at the School level, or through the Students Association's student advisory officers).

Roger (pictured) provides a free and confidential service, independent of schools and divisions. He is there to help resolve difficult issues affecting all students -- whether they be studying on campus, externally or offshore.

He aims to resolve issues through conciliation and mediation. In investigating complaints he uses the three principles of 'natural justice', which are: allowing anyone accused of misconduct to respond to allegations; not allowing bias to affect the process; and making decisions based on substance.

"In my 18 years at UniSA I've been a lecturer, a course coordinator, program director, head of school and a Dean, so I've had a lot of experience with students. I have enjoyed working with them and I would like to think I've been successful."

"The whole aim is trying to resolve complaints in a way that satisfies everyone."

For more information about the Student Ombud, visit the website at [www.unisa.edu.au/ombud](http://www.unisa.edu.au/ombud) or phone the Ombud Office toll free on 1800 600 067.

[▲ Back to top](#)

[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective international students](#)[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Student employer seminar a hit

by Natalie Di Fava

The 2002 Student - Employer seminars have been heralded as the "biggest ever" in the event's seven year history.

Held at the Magill Campus on Friday September 6 and organised by the School of Communication, Information and New Media, the seminars were a prime opportunity for the university's third-year BA students to meet with potential employers in their field of interest.

The aim was to help students gain a better understanding of the skills needed to take on the workforce after studies, and the informal atmosphere provided a comfortable forum for students to network and learn about the emerging trends in today's job market.

Many different companies attended the event, ranging from the defence force and SA Film Corporation to the State Library of South Australia and O'Brien McGrath Advertising.

The program was conducted as a series of informal discussion groups between students and employers. Different employers attended different seminars, allowing students to choose which program they would join according to the industry representatives they wanted to meet. This was designed to improve upon organisation models from previous years, when only one

seminar was held and crowd numbers were too large for significant progress to be made.

Event organiser Lucy Mostaccero-Peter believes the 2002 plan was very successful. "It was smaller and better this year," she said. "This is the first university to offer this service to employers and students, and it's a good marriage."

Another new feature was the addition of recent UniSA graduates to the program. The former students shared their experiences of life in the real world of work, and gave advice about successfully making the transition from university to employment in particular fields.

Corporate web consultant for the Department of Environment and Heritage, Alissa Burton, was one such graduate at the seminars. She believes the one-on-one interaction was beneficial for students.

"It's an opportunity for students to ask questions and for us to speak about our experiences and how we got where we are," she said. "It's about how to get ahead of the pack and see what's out there in the job sector as a whole."

And it seems students attending the seminars agreed. Jason Mills, who is completing his third year of a Bachelor of Arts (Multimedia) degree at the university, said he got a lot out of the seminars.

"It's inspiring seeing these people, and really good to see they are real people," he said of the graduate panel.

Future seminars look set to carry on with the success of this year's event. Lucy said the next step in improving the seminars for coming years would be to allocate them to a regular date on

the academic calendar.

"We have to track the outcome of these events.

It's an investment in time and energy, and we  
can see the results in that."

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Russian history inspires award-winning etching



Larissa Rogacheva-Fraser has been creating art since she was picked out to go to a specialist art school as a 10 year old in St Petersburg, Russia.

It's not surprising then that the UniSA printmaking and new media student was recently named as a finalist in the AQ Wine Art Prize, an etching competition that attracts entries from all over Australia.

Larissa won \$1,000 for her embossed etching, Arrival of Empress Katherine I aboard of Eagle, which was sold at auction for \$1200.

The work was inspired by an event during Peter the Great's rule at the start of the 18th century - a time Larissa explains, that saw major reforms, and for some a more decadent wine-fuelled lifestyle.

"My picture was inspired by an event in 1708, when Peter the Great's court was celebrating aboard Russia's then largest frigate, The Eagle," she says.

"Due to its partial construction at the time, the inebriation of the guests and their ignorance of the changing weather conditions, the entire party ended up in the murky waters of the River Neva - including, no less, the Emperor and Empress dressed in the finery of the Greek god of wine, Dionysus."

As for the future, Larissa says she'd be happy if she could make a living from her art. "To do what you love and be paid for it is the best ambition anyone could have," she says.

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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## Prestigious Hawker Scholarships up for grabs

Undergraduate and postgraduate students are being invited to apply for one of Australia's richest scholarships.

Valued at up to \$60,000 over four years, the Hawker Scholarships are awarded each year to academically capable students of principle and character, who are committed to Australia's future.

Since 1991, more than \$1.5 million in full or partly funded Hawker Scholarships have been awarded to 35 young Australians.

Established by Charles Hawker's sister, Lilius Needham, the scholarships perpetuate the memory of Charles Allan Seymour Hawker, and commemorate his achievements as one of Australia's most respected pastoral pioneers.

Undergraduate Hawker Scholars can study at a range of educational institutions including South Australia's three universities, Australian National and New England Universities and the Marcus Oldham Farm College, while postgraduate Hawker Scholars have the chance to enrol at Trinity College and study at Cambridge.

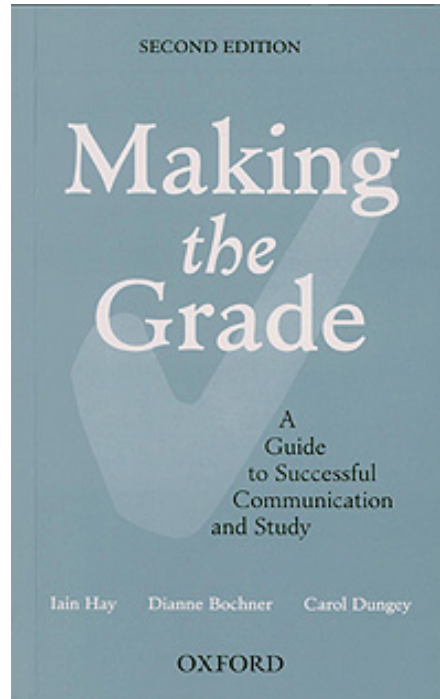
Scholarship applications for 2003 open on December 2, 2002 and close on January 17, 2003. Application forms and further information are available from the web site [www.hawkerscholarship.org](http://www.hawkerscholarship.org)

[▲ Back to top](#)

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Book giveaway



Does the thought of having to make a presentation fill you with dread? Confused about writing a bibliography? Or maybe you'd like some tips on how to research effectively using the internet.

Making the Grade: A

guide to successful communication and study tells you how to get around these and many other issues facing tertiary students, and gives an insight into the key features that academic staff look for when assessing your work.

There's a wealth of up-to-date information on how to study and develop communication skills, including the hows and whys of essays, reports, reviews, summaries, bibliographies, talks and much more. The authors have even added the latest guide to passing online exams, group work and referencing electronic resources.

Written by Carol Dungey, a UniSA campus librarian, and Professor Iain Hay and Dianne Bochner from Flinders University, Making the Grade was originally commissioned as a textbook for Flinders University students.

Now in its second edition, the book's popularity continues to increase, with large markets in Australia.

Copies of the book published by Oxford University Press can be ordered from Unibooks. Cost is \$26.95 (before discount).

## Win a free book

Students@UniSA has two copies of Making the Grade to give away to two lucky readers. If you are a UniSA student who would like to be in the draw, email us at [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au), marked attention: 'Making the Grade competition'.

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)
[For the media](#)
[For alumni](#)
[For potential donors](#)
[For prospective international students](#)
[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Marcin wins a laptop for sharing his experiences



The online 2002 Student Experiences Questionnaire has now been completed and the University is delighted with the huge increase in response rate. More than 7,000 responses were received from a survey population of around 21,000 – a 33 per cent response rate.

More impressively, more than 60 per cent of the students who accessed the email sent to students inviting their response responded.

Such a strong response will provide University management with an excellent database for informing future improvements in the quality of student services.

Organisers say the increased response was partly the result of students increasing use of UniSA's online environment, but that the donation of a laptop computer by the Information Strategy and Technology Services unit as a draw prize was undoubtedly an attractive incentive.

Marcin Nowina-Krowicki, the winner of the laptop (pictured above on the right), certainly agrees. The first year student in the Bachelor of Information Technology

(Computing, and Multimedia) was presented with the Toshiba laptop by Paul Sherlock, Director of Information Strategy and Technology Services, at a morning tea hosted by ISTS.

For Marcin it was a fabulous surprise to be informed he had won. "It's just amazing, I can't believe it," he said.

As an information technology student studying across both the Mawson Lakes and Magill campuses, Marcin says the laptop will help him greatly in his studies.

[▲ Back to top](#)

---

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[For staff](#)[For the media](#)[For alumni](#)[For potential donors](#)[For prospective international students](#)[> Publications > Students@UniSA October/November 2002](#)

## Salisbury's learning champions

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

Achieving against the odds is not unfamiliar to UniSA student Denise Williams, who has been recognised as one of the City of Salisbury's Learning Champions for her exceptional individual achievement in learning and positive contribution to the Salisbury community.

Denise lost her mother just weeks before the birth of her first child, and nursed close friends with terminal illnesses while rearing a family and maintaining her commitment to her studies in community services at TAFE, where she was nominated Student of the Year in 1999. Now in her final year of a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education program, Denise is an inspiration to all mothers who want to follow a career path.

Denise is one three students from UniSA to win the inaugural title, which celebrates the effort and achievement by learners of all ages throughout Salisbury, and recognises outstanding support given by teachers and tutors in organisations across the City of Salisbury.

Joining Denise in the Learning Champions circle is UniSA student Roselia Mrkic, who has been an active adult learner since her eldest child began school. The first adult to finish her SACE at Paralowie, Roselia's hard work earned her a Merit Award for Women's Studies and an award for excellence from the Australian Education

Union. An outstanding learning role model, Roselia is continuing her learning journey by enrolling in a degree in social science.

Betty Doulas is another Learning Champion with a passion for knowledge that led her to pursue a change of career, studying at TAFE and working as an accounting trainee with the City of Salisbury. Now in a full time accounting role and enrolled in UniSA's Bachelor of Commerce degree program, Betty remains dedicated to learning and further education to improve her adult life.

Commended by the City of Salisbury was UniSA graduate Melanie Cardillo, who received a certificate of merit for her outstanding contribution to the community through continued learning to support Highway School Care. Melanie, who worked part-time in the Highway's out of school hours' service while studying for her Bachelor of Nursing degree program, has graduated to become co-director at Highway School Care.

[▲ Back to top](#)

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