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UniSA News

A newspaper of the University of South Australia

September 2003

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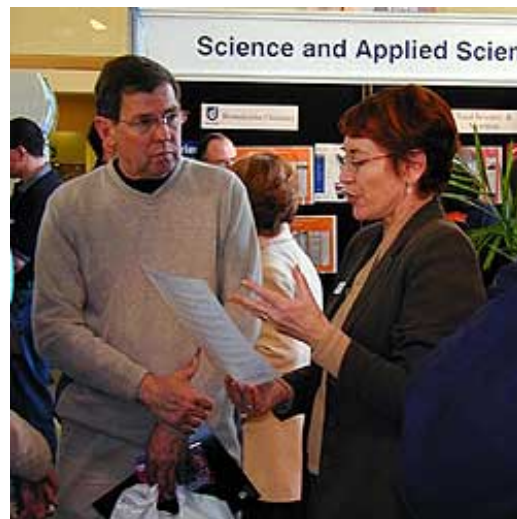
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October 2003 issue of UniSANews

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

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From the Vice Chancellor

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



Research policy on the agenda

Research policy is now very much on the Australian public policy agenda even though there is no resolution of the government's proposals in *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future*.

There are at least six separate national reviews or enquiries underway that could have a major impact on universities' research strategy. The ones of particular concern are:

- Review of Collaboration Between Universities and Publicly Funded Research Agencies
- Evaluation of the Knowledge and Innovation reforms
- National Strategy on Research Infrastructure.

These three reviews are occurring with very tight timelines in order to meet the deadlines of the Commonwealth's budget processes and with what many see as overlapping terms of reference. Those of us who have met with the chairs of the three reviews also remain very unclear about the decision-making track for proposals from these reviews. How a coordinated policy proposal for the future of research in Australia will eventuate is not yet apparent to me or to many of my colleagues in higher education.

The speed and complexity of the process add to the problems of finding some agreed position by Australia's 38 universities with their diversity of missions and differences in research strategy and research performance. National research strategy and funding models for research are notoriously difficult issues for universities to find areas of common ground.

About the only position we would all share is that Australian governments, Commonwealth and State, should be directing more funds to support

research and innovation. Beyond that, our positions on the appropriate balance of funding between medical, scientific and social science research; on whether university funds for research infrastructure should be more narrowly tied to research grants; on whether universities should specialise in basic rather than applied research; and whether funding mechanisms should encourage even greater concentration of research and researchers, differ markedly.

UniSA's basic position about research is clear. We welcome competition but are concerned that over and over again, research policies favour those institutions that have been historically advantaged in their access to research funds. In particular, the depreciation in the funding spent on research infrastructure over the last decade has impacted on the rate of our research development.

We have established ourselves as a university committed to collaborative research with industry partners, but are hampered by the small number of head offices and associated research and development facilities in South Australia.

We seek to collaborate with the Publicly Funded Research Agencies but, apart from DSTO, this has not always been easy to achieve. What the outcome of the reviews will be is difficult to determine at this stage. We hope, though, they will provide a better environment for this University's research to flourish.

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News in brief

Hawke Institute call for papers

UniSA's Hawke Research Institute has made a call for papers for an upcoming conference on women and information and communication technology (ICT) in India and China and other developing countries.

A collaboration with the Institute of International Studies at the University of Technology Sydney, the conference will be held at UniSA's Magill campus from November 5-7 this year.

Organisers are seeking abstracts on issues such as how ICT's have increased women's access to education, the impact of boundary blurring between the home and the workplace, and cultural and ethical issues surrounding the use of new technologies.

They are particularly interested in papers looking at how ICT's may have altered the position on less advantaged groups such as women from rural or isolated areas, women with disabilities and indigenous women.

Abstracts should be between 200-300 words and include a short bio note from the presenter. Abstracts should be sent to debrow.thaw@unisa.edu.au by September 30.

For further information on the Hawke Institute, forum presenters and themes visit www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au/institute/events.htm

McKay on PM's water re-use working party

The Director of UniSA's Water Policy and Law Group, Professor Jennifer McKay, has been appointed to a working party of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC).

The council is a high-level advisory group comprising some of Australia's most senior policy makers from industry, government and academia.

Prof McKay – whose latest research looks at residents' perceptions of recycled water use in Mawson Lakes – will be involved in the PMSEIC's working group on the re-use of urban waste water.

Rare honour for Pattison

John Pattison, a senior lecturer in the School of Electrical and Information Engineering and the University's radiation safety officer, has been elected a 'companion' of the Institution of Engineers Australia (IEAust) College of Biomedical Engineers.

The rank of companion, bestowed in recognition of expertise and service, has been awarded to less than one per cent of all IEAust members. Pattison, a medical and health physicist, is also a fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics and edits the journal Australasian Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine.

Female cricketers wanted

When not busy working as a senior internal auditor at UniSA, Phil Armanas enjoys coaching two teams for the Goodwood Hornets Women's Cricket Club.

The club is seeking new players for the upcoming season. All are welcome and no experience is necessary.

For more information, visit the club website at www.communitywebs.org/GdwdWomansCricketClub/ or phone Phil on 0417 805 955.

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Welcome to Ryan's Rainbow

Gerry Clarke's recent transfer to the Flexible Learning Centre marked the end of more than two year's involvement in writing Five to Nine features on UniSA staff. For his farewell article, we asked Gerry to talk about his experience writing the book Ryan's Rainbow, which describes the highs and lows of the first 18 years in the life of Ryan Clarke, a boy with Down syndrome – told through the eyes of his dad.



"Ryan is not going to be quite the same as your other boys. Ryan has been born with Down syndrome," Dr Pearson calmly explained.

Our hands gripped. Joyce sobbed quietly. Somehow I held my tears back. Joyce hugged Ryan tightly.

We were alone. We cried uncontrollably for several minutes, hugging with Ryan squashed in between us. We showered him with kisses. We promised Ryan the best possible life, and looked to our combined strength to handle what, as individuals, we would struggle to survive.

I will never forget my friend Tania's words. "Ryan will give you far more than you can ever give him." She was speaking from her experience of sharing life with her sister who had Down syndrome. "You may not be able to appreciate it yet." She was certainly right. Ryan was only a few weeks old and all we could comprehend was his total dependence on us. As each day went by Tania's words came to mean more to me.

Ryan is now almost 18. Joyce and I look upon his birth as the best thing that has ever happened to our family and now fully understand the message that Tania was trying

to convey to us. Ryan brings immeasurable joy with his special gifts that we could never hope to repay. His fulfillment of Tania's prophecy was the inspiration behind Ryan's Rainbow. I felt compelled to share our wonderful discovery with those who have never had the opportunity to experience something so special.

Last year I took four months leave to complete my labour of love. It was rewarding for me and the whole family – each family member made a unique contribution to the book. I found it easy to transform ideas from my head and my heart into Ryan's Rainbow, using a scrawled 'mind mapping' approach. Leisurely walks along Somerton Beach helped to keep the creative juices flowing. Rejected by commercial publishers, I was determined that Ryan's Rainbow would become a reality in time for Ryan's 18th birthday. I found powerful allies within the UniSA community. Rosemary Luke, as editor, was a constant source of support and inspiration. After reading the book, Document Services manager Sharon Clews became a champion for the cause – Document Services would be proud to print Ryan's Rainbow if we chose to self publish. Michèle Nardelli (with a touch of her media magic) and Courtney Stephen (applying her creative genius to design the front cover) were other members of UniSA's community who helped.

And how did I choose the title? Despite Ryan wanting the book to be called Ryan's Storm (such is his fascination with storms) I felt a rainbow perfectly captured the colour, the simplicity, the beauty and the magic that is Ryan. I invite you to share in the wondrous gifts that make up Ryan's Rainbow.

Ryan's Rainbow is available for \$19.80 from U Shops on each UniSA campus, from Dymocks bookstores and through the Down Syndrome Society of South Australia.

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Browser Briefs

by [Karen Williams](#)

[2 understand](#)

This website came about through the efforts of three UniSA Masters students in electronic commerce. Alison Brus, Sarah Nyguyen and Marta Arisandi developed the website as part of their program, its aim being to provide information, access to resources, and an online forum on all aspects of autism. The real test for the students was to find ways to bring all of their knowledge and skills together to apply-commerce principles in a real world context. The students had to research the area of autism and the support systems available for carers of children with autism, and then construct a website to provide an independent aggregation of resources and communication mechanisms for carers and parents. Separate web pages are provided for the areas of service, support, online community, editorials, schools, information, links, and personal stories. The services page provides links to a variety of support services including therapy services, information services and recreation and sporting associations; while the links page provides (as you would expect) links to personal stories, autism online magazines, state government and institution links, and more. The site will no doubt be appreciated by parents and carers alike.

www.2understand.com

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Classifieds

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

For sale

34 zip disks and zip drive (with driver CD) for \$50 or best offer. Perfect for those with a computer without a CDR or DVD writer. Phone Nadine 0402 598 580

Magna 2001 TJ Executive V6 auto, black, sports pack, tinted windows, CD player, air bags, in-car phone kit, excellent condition, 42,000 km, \$21,500 ono. Contact Mary McEwin on 8302 0471 or mobile 0412 054 966. City West Campus.

Various – for the following items phone Connie on 0412 679 204 or email connie.mmadike@unisa.edu.au

3 wooden sliding doors, tracks & pelmets included \$65 each or \$180 for all 3 sets. 1 china cabinet glass sliding doors, shelves, mirrored back \$65 ono

Kenwood steam mop, good cond, \$20

Colonial baby change table (baby-co) excellent cond, \$200 ono

Accommodation wanted

Housesitting service available for March, April and May 2004. Moving from interstate in 2004, passionately tidy, raised on a farm, with a love for animals, able to attend to their exercise, grooming needs. Keen gardener. References available on request. Phone Leanne on (03) 6393 1050 or email leanne.hoffmann@mvc.tas.gov.au

For rent

Nice fully furn 2 bdrm 1 study, open plan living courtyard home. Mod cons, rev cycle air con, off st parking, very secure. Low maintenance. 5 min walk to Magill campus, or bus stop. Suit visiting scholars. 3 mth min lease. \$300 p.w. Phone 0422 138 276

Victor Harbor 2br beach apartment in historic stone building. Sunlit living room,

balcony, bbq, aircon, computer/internet, pool, minutes to the beach, cafes and the Square. Linen/towels provided. Sleeps 4. \$140 per night (UniSA discount and weekly rates available). Phone 0414 239 784 or email ingrid.day@unisa.edu.au

Wayville 4br plus study character bluestone villa, double lock-up garage, furnished, avail end of Sept/Oct for 18months - two years. \$330 pw. Phone (08) 8271 8864

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Academic board

by [Peter Cardwell](#)
Executive Officer

The following was noted at the July meeting of the Academic Board.

Corporate Review Report 2002

The PVC (EASS), Prof Michael Rowan, presented an overview of the Corporate Review process in 2003, and provided some discussion of the outcomes, reflections on the University's performance in 2002 and the Corporate Priorities for 2004.

The Corporate Review Report incorporates the outcomes of the annual internal review process undertaken by the Corporate Planning Group (CPG) with divisions, institutes and units. The report looks at the University's performance in 2002, and performance against key performance indicators. The main body of the report provides an analysis of 2002 performance in the areas of teaching and learning, research, research education and commercialisation, as well as financial performance.

The corporate priorities for 2004 are: implementation of the outcomes of Backing Australia's Future; the scholarship of teaching; more effective use of the University's management information systems to support decision making; better alignment of business strategy and budget framework; and building individual and institutional strategy.

Planning is taking place in major committees, schools, administrative units, research institutes and centres, and divisions. The CPG will then meet and develop the Corporate Plan 2004-2006, which will be received by Council at its December meeting.

Whyalla Review

The Whyalla Review was noted. It was commissioned late in 2002, with a brief to look at the relationship between the divisions and Whyalla campus. It was agreed that the redirection of the academic and community focus of the campus also be

examined.

It focused on the nature of the relationship between the divisions and Whyalla in relation to existing and future programs, the potential for enhanced partnerships, and the organisational and reporting relationships.

The review concluded that there is scope to enhance the partnership between the Whyalla campus and the University by developing a strategy of shared enterprise around a set of focussed initiatives that address the needs of regional South Australia, enhance the educational experience of all students, and improve our performance in access and equity.

It was considered that the academic core business of the campus made it more appropriate to have a divisional PVC as the Whyalla senior manager, rather than the existing reporting relationship to the PVC (Access and Learning Support), who is primarily head of a service portfolio.

The PVC (Health Sciences) has now assumed responsibility for Whyalla. The PVC and the Dean of Whyalla will develop a detailed strategy by the end of 2003, which will outline how the University as a whole can address key regional issues, and how the campus will function within the Division of Health Sciences. An extensive consultation process is also underway.

Higher Doctorate

The PVC (Research and International), Prof Ian Davey, reported that the University had awarded its first higher doctorate in April 2003. The awards are extremely rare and a candidate for a higher doctorate at UniSA must hold a PhD, be a graduate of five years standing, and qualify by reason of eminence or outstanding achievement.

Prof David Wilkinson, the PVC (Health Sciences), submitted a body of work on public health aspects of tuberculosis in South Africa for the degree of Doctor of Science. A divisional committee was established by the Dean of Research to assess the work submitted, which was deemed to be worthy of examination. Three examiners concluded unanimously that Prof Wilkinson's work is impressive and of considerable importance, and had made a distinguished contribution to the knowledge and understanding in his field of study. Academic Board endorsed the proposed Doctor of Science award and recommended that it be forwarded to Council for approval.

Program Development

The following new programs were approved:

- Master of Facilities and Asset Management
- Master of Information and Communications Technology Management
- Master of Logistics and Transport for Transnational Delivery in China

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Research Update

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

Current grant opportunities

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

Current international funding opportunities

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

Current research fellowship and award opportunities

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

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

New grant opportunities

Australian Research Council

Linkage-International Program – readvertised

Provides funding to build links between researchers, research teams and research centres of excellence in Australia and overseas by funding extended collaborations.

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

Closing date ongoing

Linkage-Projects Round 2 – Preliminary Notification

Supports projects which are collaborative between higher education researchers and industry, which are undertaken to acquire new knowledge, and which involve risk or innovation.

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

Application forms will be available on GAMS shortly.

Internal closing date 14 Nov 2003

External closing date 28 Nov 2003

The Ian Potter Foundation

Ian Potter Foundation Grants

Invites applications for grants in the areas of arts, education, environment and conservation, health, medical research, science, social welfare, and travel.

www.ianpotter.org.au

Internal closing date 20 Oct 2003

External closing date 3 Nov 2003

BHP Billiton

BHP Billiton Corporate Community Program

Provides up to \$100,000 for projects in the areas of culture, education, training and leadership, community welfare, medical research, environment.

www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/sustainableDevelopment/community/supportGuidelinesFoundations.jsp

Internal closing date 16 Oct 2003

External closing date 1 Nov 2003

Telstra

Telstra Broadband Fund

Supports newly-conceived and groundbreaking projects that attract business and consumers to take up broadband services.

www.broadbandfund.telstra.com

Internal closing date 11 Sep 2003

External closing date 18 Sep 2003

The Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation

Research Grant

Grants for research in the fields of arthritis, diabetes, geriatrics, schizophrenia, ophthalmology, lung diseases (excluding cancer) and in the medical applications of genetic research.

www.cooperfoundation.org.au

Internal closing date 26 Sep 2003

External closing date 10 Oct 2003

Sugar Research and Development Corporation

Research Project Proposals – Preliminary Project Proposals

Invites proposals for innovative research commencing from July 2004 to address the outcomes, goals and strategies of the SRDC R&D Plan 2003-2008.

www.srdc.gov.au/2004_Call_for_research_and_scholarship_proposals.pdf

Internal closing date 16 Sep 2003

External closing date 30 Sep 2003

International funding opportunities

Australian Academy of Science

2004 Travelling Fellowships

Offers travel support to carry out research in the following areas:

- biological sciences
- all fields of science
- ecology
- forestry

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

Internal closing date 15 Sep 2003

External closing date 30 Sep 2003

Foundation for the National Institutes of Health

Visits to the National Institutes of Health in the USA for Junior Scientists

Will support proposals in any health-related field of natural science. At the time of application, applicants should be either:

- - in the first two years of a PhD degree or equivalent; or
- - have completed a Masters or a Bachelors with Honours degree; or
- be in the final semester of a Masters or a Bachelors with Honours degree.

www.science.org.au/internat/exchange/berry.htm

Internal closing date 16 Sep 2003

External closing date 30 Sep 2003

Fellowship and award opportunities

Australian Academy of Science/Korea Science and Engineering Foundation

Postdoctoral Fellowships in Science and Engineering in the Republic of Korea

Invites proposals from suitably qualified scientists/technologists in any field of basic and applied science, including maths and engineering science.

www.science.org.au/internat/exchange/apec.htm

Internal closing date 16 Sep 2003

External closing date 30 Sep 2003

Radcliffe Institute Fellowships

Radcliffe Institute Fellowship Program, Harvard University

Fellowships are designed to support scholars, scientists, artists, and writers of exceptional promise and accomplishment who wish to pursue work in academic and professional fields and in the creative arts.

www.radcliffe.edu/fellowships/apply/index.html

Internal closing date 16 Sep 2003

External closing date 1 Oct 2003

Searching for a scholarship?

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

www.jason.unimelb.edu.au

Due to space restrictions, we are unable to provide full details of grants. Where a website has been provided, please refer to the website for further detail, or contact Natalie Thorpe on 8302 5229.

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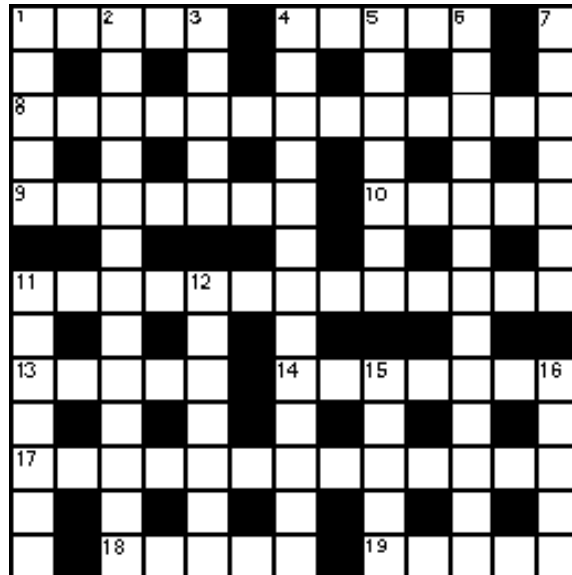
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Colgan's Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

1. The effrontery of orchestral types! (5)
4. Remains because female enters (5)
8. Novel expression used by Miranda (5,3,5)
9. Gag and hit one from the subcontinent (7)
10. Plant from 4D (5)
11. The act of offering oneself? Frank has a setback with it (13)
13. How to get wealth (5)
14. Kelly Slater is outside (7)
17. Those producing airs because split tree flowers (6-7)
18. Northumbrian saint returns to girl (5)
19. When to find time (5)

DOWN

1. 14 shilling rise (3,2)
2. Repeatedly make advances (5,3,5)
3. Now, Yemen gives female a degree (5)
4. Improperly aims a camera on overseas territory (8,5)
5. A perspicacious person, one from Iowa (7)

6. See a master hold up art unwaveringly (8,5)
7. Lots of confusion before Head of Physics sees the light (3-4)
11. Pass around mineral for fun (7)
12. Popular place, as an alternative (7)
15. Modified type of jigger to hold end of cue (5)
16. Article providing directions, for example (5)

Win a bottle of wine

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to Len Colgan at (08) 8302 5785 by Wednesday September 24. The winner of the August competition was Malcolm Smith from the School of Accounting and Information Systems.

Solution

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

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Ancient therapies find a home at UniSA

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)

UniSA has just announced the appointment of an Associate Professor in Complementary and Alternative Therapies.

The appointment heralds the foundation of new courses at UniSA including a conversion course for practitioners with existing qualifications in naturopathy or in acupuncture due to start in 2004, and short courses in complementary therapies for health professionals who are working with patients using these therapies.

Associate Professor Caroline Smith – a specialist in human ecology, Masters graduate from the University of London in Medical Demography with a PhD from Adelaide University and a qualified acupuncturist – will also spearhead a broad research program in complementary and alternative therapies.

Professor Smith says general interest in natural therapies is accelerating in the community and health professionals are responding by seeking to understand and qualify how these therapies may be of benefit.

“If we look at the development of modern western medicine and natural therapies they have taken quite different paths – modern medicine has taken huge technology and research based strides, attracting the dollars and results to ensure pre-eminence,” she said.

“But as people look for health solutions that are holistic and complementary to western treatments, the spotlight is turning back to acupuncture, naturopathy, aromatherapy and other systems of health treatment to see what they can offer and



what evidence we can find for their effectiveness.

“We know more than 50 per cent of the population use complementary therapies, a figure that is hard to ignore. We need to take serious stock of these treatments and acknowledge their potential as a part of health care.”

Prof Smith has undertaken systematic reviews evaluating the effectiveness of acupuncture as a treatment for depression, period pain, pain in childbirth and for inducing labour but says while the results are promising more research needs to be done.

“A lot of the research reviewed was not robust,” she said. “There are many examples of poor research design with small study samples and problems with adequate blinding for the control group; this makes it difficult to measure effectiveness.

“What is exciting about UniSA’s complementary therapies program development is that there will be a strong focus on assessing the evidence base for complementary therapies, this will include not only systematic reviews but also clinical trials of our own.”

UniSA will offer its one-year conversion Bachelor of Health Sciences program in 2004 to practitioners who have a diploma from a government-recognised health education provider, but is also hoping to develop a full four-year undergraduate program specialising in naturopathy and acupuncture.

“We are also keen to fill the increasing demand for short professional courses in alternative therapies, by increasing awareness and the knowledge base for midwives, nurses and general practitioners,” she said.

“Increasingly there are examples both in Australia and around the world where standard medicine and complementary therapies are practiced side by side in health centres to the great benefit of those seeking care.

“UniSA will be taking the lead in SA to support this constructive approach to health education, research and health care.”



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Open Day attracts 10,000



With an estimated 10,000 people attending UniSA's Open Day on August 17, organisers have pronounced the event a resounding success.

Prospective students and their friends and families had the chance to browse school displays and attend lectures on the wide variety of programs offered at UniSA. Free donuts, a barbecue, entertainment and martial arts and break-dancing demos helped create a festive atmosphere.

Whyalla campus also enjoyed good attendance at its Open Day held on August 22, with 500 visitors coming from as far a field as Port Lincoln, Hawker and Port Pirie.



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Blueprint – it's full throttle action

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)



If going to work was like driving a Formula One racing car all day long, would it get tiring? Well according to Brian Phillips when the track is always changing and your support team is the best there is, you might get tired ... but it is still a buzz.

Phillips says managing Blueprint 2005, UniSA's \$100 million capital works project across three campuses, is one of the most complex and exciting sets of projects he has ever been involved with.

"There are no troughs and peaks – it is full throttle all the way for the whole team, but it is hugely rewarding," he says.

He believes the hardest thing for his team – Lex Rogers, Sarah Lynds, Mark Lovell, Christina Coleiro, Robert Lustrì, Yen May Tang, Tim Menadue, Tammy Bullock, Nicolai Zarucki, Christy Martin, Margaret McLoughlin and Janet Jordan – will be returning to 'normal duties' once Blueprint is complete.

"I am finding my greatest pleasure is that in the face of every problem, we are working as an adaptable communicative team," he says.

"We have developed sound, consistent processes but we also have the ability to respond to unplanned and complex problems with innovation and flexibility. We are all putting in 150 per cent and it is exhilarating. If there is no such thing as perfection – this has got to be as good as it gets."

Phillips says there has also been generous support and cooperation across the University.

“People have been really engaged in this project and what it means for the University. They are also understanding about important issues such as the need to balance function and use of space, or creative flair and budget. What is striking is the number of UniSA staff who have tried to imagine their future teaching and learning environments and then used real innovation and creativity in developing ideas or solution for problems.”

Phillips says the next three months will be exciting as buildings start to take shape at City East, City West and Mawson Lakes.

“This is a one-off opportunity to see the creation of something new, exciting and important. If I was a building student I think I would be spending some of each day just observing the processes – the preparation and the development of the first few floors.”

Phillips said there may also be some inconveniences associated with construction but that his team was already prepared to help find solutions to problems.

“Shortly there will be an on campus phone number to ring to report any hazards or inconveniences and a toll free number for those using a mobile phone to report problems,” he said.

The new phone numbers will be widely publicised on campus and on the Blueprint 2005 website www.unisa.edu.au/blueprint/

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UniSA staff people you can work with – survey results

A survey into clients' perceptions of UniSA's research services has shown that overall customer satisfaction levels remain very high.

The survey, conducted by Sue Mikilewicz and Gary Crilley from UniSA's Centre for Environmental and Recreation Management (CERM), found that external clients' satisfaction with UniSA's research services had increased from previous years.

The satisfaction level of 5.91 (on a scale of 0-7) was an improvement on previous surveys conducted in 2001 and 2002 where overall satisfaction levels were 5.65 and 5.71 respectively.

Eighty nine per cent of respondents said they would recommend UniSA to others as a provider of research services, while employee enthusiasm and trust and confidentiality were some of UniSA's strengths identified by respondents. Quality officer for Research Services, Mark Gorringe, said that UniSA stood up well against other universities that had conducted similar surveys.

"We can be really encouraged by these results," he said. "It's all about us measuring ourselves and continually looking for ways to improve".

UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and International Professor Ian Davey agreed. "I am delighted by such positive responses from external clients. This really demonstrates the University's competitive position," he said.

"Our external clients and partners not only believe we are people you can work with, but they are also willing to communicate this to their colleagues and contacts."

For more information about the survey results contact Mark Gorringe on (08) 8302 5143.

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IT research boost

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

UniSA's Advanced Computing Research Centre (ACRC) will host the newly established South Australian node of the Distributed Systems Technology Centre Pty Ltd (DSTC) at the Mawson Lakes campus.

The new research facility was launched on August 26 by South Australian Minister for Science and Information Economy, Jane Lomax-Smith.

A joint initiative between DSTC, UniSA, the Defence, Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), Motorola and LISAssoft, the SA node will serve as a hub for complementary research and development activities in the area of technology-enabled defence planning, software inspection and health management.

DSTC will receive \$3 million in additional Commonwealth funding for its expansion into South Australia. The SA node includes a significant focus on the ACRC's e-World Laboratory project, 'LiveSpace'.

Bringing together researchers from the ACRC, DSTO and DSTC, LiveSpace is a technology-enhanced meeting space that includes:

- electronic support for information management, with items such as agendas and documents to be tabled at meetings and coordination of display technology to move information from a display on a laptop to display on the main screen and back
- multi-browsing, where participants browsing a website in the meeting room can direct that content to the display of other participants or to the main display
- augmented reality (AR), technology that lets participants add computer generated information to what they see through their normal vision. UniSA is experimenting with various AR technologies to enhance the meeting experience.
- automated transcription, technology that enables spoken words to be converted to text instantaneously.

ACRC director Associate Professor Jim Warren said current display management technologies were set to evolve into more profound 'knowledge management' technologies such as methods of measuring 'trust' in information sources.

"A fairly tried and true technology that we will expand on is that of 'workflow management systems'. This includes features such as a template that outlines what the process should be for planning a certain type of meeting, helping organisers to make sure that all of the steps in the process are included for the meeting to be productive and run efficiently," he said.

"One of the projects we're researching with Motorola is on supporting collaborative software engineering processes such as code inspection. Companies that produce high quality software have to make a huge human resource investment in software inspection to ensure the quality of all of the programs and software that they are producing. Motorola produces software that is embedded in phones, semiconductors and automotive telematics systems, where it simply cannot afford errors.

"LiveSpace could help software inspectors to adhere to an organisational policy for an activity, make sure that they are seeing the right information to interpret the correctness of computer code, employ automated transcription to maintain good records of what has happened and potentially enable the use of augmented reality displays to expand the inspectors' visual perceptions. LiveSpace technology could help improve not only the efficiency of the software inspection process, but also the accuracy of the process."

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Autism website launched

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)



For three UniSA Masters students in electronic commerce, e-commerce has taken on a community focus set to be a real boon for families who have children with autism.

As part of their Masters program Alison Brus, Sarah Nguyen and Marta

Arisandi have developed a website designed to provide information, access to resources, and an online forum on all aspects of autism.

The website www.2understand.com was launched by the SA Minister for Social Justice, Stephanie Key in August.

Course coordinator Kathy Darzanos says the test for students is in finding ways to bring all their knowledge and skills together to apply e-commerce principles in a real world context.

“Students have had to go out into the world and research client needs, community issues and undertake the kind of research that they would need if they were working on a project for industry,” Darzanos said.

The autism support website was developed in consultation with the SA Autism Association and other support groups, parents, education providers and others.

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World first in evidence-based allied health

by [Thel Krollig](#)

UniSA has become home to the new Centre for Allied Health Evidence, a collaborative centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute, and the first of its kind in the world.

The Centre for Allied Health Evidence (CAHE) provides a much needed resource for allied health workers, researchers, educators, clinicians, policy makers, administrators and patients, providing a repository for evidence-based research in a wide range of areas from physiotherapy through to medical radiations.

According to CAHE Director, Associate Professor Karen Grimmer, the centre provides a unique opportunity to produce evidence-based solutions to allied health problems and ensure that treatment strategies are based on the best evidence and research available.

“This represents a major opportunity to put South Australia on the map internationally in allied health evidence-based academic, teaching and clinical practice,” said Prof Grimmer.

“The centre’s focus on physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry and medical radiation and will increase community and clinical awareness of the importance of these therapies in the whole health picture.

“Evidence-based research will provide a significant impact on allied health care by taking relevant, high quality, evidence-based research and ensuring it is widely disseminated,” she said.

CAHE will be offering workshops to allied health clinicians to educate and promote evidence-based practice as the future of allied health. It will also offer consultancy services to organisations requiring evidence-based allied health information.

Professor Grimmer said the provision of two years funding for the centre from the SA Department of Human Services demonstrates its commitment to CAHE and the role it

will play in achieving best practice allied health care in the state.

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When making up stories is the very best thing

Sharing a story a day with your children is one of the best things parents can do to encourage not only literacy, but also imagination, empathy, problem solving and the development of a range of other skills.

And as Children's Book Week was celebrated around Australia from August 18 – 22 about 100 of UniSA's future teachers spent time with students from Gilles Street Primary School to tell stories and to hear some yarns from the children themselves.



Gilles Street is one of the most multicultural schools in the state with children from as far afield as the Sudan and Bosnia to Iraq and Korea.

UniSA Associate Professor in early childhood education, Dr Susan Hill says stories help children make connections between themselves and the world around them.

“Stories have the capacity to engage children from very different cultures and help them to make connections about shared human experiences,” she said.

“And there are some amazing examples of archetypal stories that cross cultural barriers – such as the ‘Cinderella story’, which exists in different versions, about 600 versions in fact, in almost every country in the world.”

Dr Hill says good stories engage the reader's feelings and passions and explore people's motives, plans and hopes for the future.

“Stories deal with more than events – they make feelings and emotions visible for children, show relationships between actions and outcomes and help children

understand how to learn from mistakes. These aspects of sharing stories are of enormous importance to children's development. Stories encourage children to go on and write their own stories."

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Architecture out of the archives

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)



Past clients, architecture buffs and students packed into the Royal Australian Institute of Architects building on August 14 for a public conversation with acclaimed architects Robert Dickson and Newell Platten.

The conversation, led by UniSA architecture lecturer Rachel Hurst, covered everything from Dickson and Platten's training at UniSA's antecedent institution, the South Australian Institute of Technology, to some of the duo's most famous work (such as the Adelaide University Union Building and the Arkaba Hotel).

Although saying that it was "difficult to express too strongly just how conservative Adelaide was" when they were young architects in the 1950s, Platten reminisced on a time when architectural fees were standard, materials were relatively cheap and tradesmen dependable. "We were very lucky because we grew up in a much gentler age than the young architects of today," he said.

Part of the Conversation + Exhibition series organised by the Architecture Archive at the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, the event also saw the display of an historic collection of architectural drawings and photographs of Dickson and Platten's work – taken from the archive's Dickson collection.

The archive, originally established in 1990 thanks to a donation by Donald Leslie Johnson, is a unique repository of more than 175,000 items significant to South Australia's architectural history. A research facility open to the public, it is planned that the archive will be housed in a purpose built facility at City West as part of UniSA's major capital works program, Blueprint 2005.

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UniSA helping nurses get back to work

UniSA's School of Nursing and Midwifery has won a tender to run an assessment service aimed at allowing qualified nurses who have dropped out of the profession to re-register.

Run in conjunction with the Nursing Agency of Australia, the Competency Assessment Service will be available to people who already hold a qualification as a registered or enrolled nurse, midwife or mental health nurse.

The assessment services will also be open to people who gained their qualification overseas.

Each client will be referred to the service by the Nurses Board of South Australia and receive a self-directed learning package addressing professional, legal, ethical, cultural, clinical and evidence-based practice aspects relevant to safe nursing and midwifery in South Australia. They will be required to complete a test to assess their competency against the national standards.

Senior lecturer in Nursing and Midwifery Dr Paul Arbon says the assessment service is one of several strategies to overcome the severe shortage of qualified nurses in Australia.

"I think there's a growing recognition that there has been a problem and we're now seeing a concerted effort to employ and train more nurses," he said.

"There is increasing competition between employers, and in many instances workplace conditions are improving."

Dr Arbon says there are thousands of qualified nurses and midwives living in SA who may be interested in the Competency Assessment Service.

"Some may be eligible to re-register straight away, others will need to be reassessed, and some of that group who have been out of the system for longer may need retraining. The objective is to provide a range of options."

For more information on the Competency Assessment Service, contact the Nurses Board of South Australia on (08) 8223 9777.

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Indian exchange broadens horizons

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)



“If you think it’s hard to get assistance from Centrelink, try navigating your way through India’s social security maze!” UniSA social science graduate Sally Richardson is reflecting on one of the more frustrating lessons she learnt while on a 16 week placement at the Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs

(RUHSA) in Southern India earlier this year.

Assigned to work on a project aimed at improving disabled children’s access to education, Sally had come across a teenage girl, who, unable to walk and without the money to buy a wheelchair, was being carried around on the back of her mother.

“I referred them to my supervisor and we took her to the district rehab office and in the end managed to organise her access to a basic living benefit,” Sally says.

That was just one of the countless attitude-altering experiences that UniSA social work and social science students have been through since a field placement program was set up between UniSA and RUHSA seven years ago.

Since then more than 50 students have been involved in the program, working on a range of social work activities, from needs assessment and program planning to research, program implementation and evaluation. They have worked on projects and produced reports on parenting, mobile health clinics, and HIV/AIDS, amongst many other worthwhile schemes.

For Sally, the placement has offered the kind of insights and experiences not available at home.

“I think it gives students the ability to see the bigger picture, it’s certainly given me

more of an international perspective.

“The main thing that I’ve learnt is the importance of social justice and human rights. Social justice is not just an idea to me now but a value I hold dear to my heart – and it’s something I want to continue to work for and address in an Australian context.”

The UniSA-RUHSA exchange is not all one way. Thanks to an Australia-India Council grant, RUHSA staff have the opportunity to come to UniSASA on study visits. For more information on the RUHSA placement project, contact Frank Tesoriero on (08) 8302 4515 or email frank.tesoriero@unisa.edu.au

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New human services doctorate to meet professionals' needs

The University of South Australia is responding to the changing face of human services by introducing a new professional doctorate specifically designed to meet the needs of mid-career professionals.

The Doctor of Human Services Research will have its first intake next year, and is aimed at human service graduates working in a range of government-funded and community-based services – such as social work, law, health, education, child and family services, correctional services, human resource management and social security.



The professional doctorate will be offered as a three year full time or six year part time program – one third coursework and two thirds research. The first third of the degree will be devoted to coursework designed to extend the candidate's knowledge and skills for industry-based research, while in the second and third years doctoral students will carry out two major related research projects relevant to their field.

Dale Bagshaw, Director of Postgraduate Studies at UniSA's School of Social Work and Social Policy, says the new program is in line with a broader push towards tailoring postgraduate study to meet the changing needs of professionals and their workplaces.

“UniSA now offers a wide range of professional doctorates, in line with universities across the world, because of their relevance to practising professionals and the changing needs of the workplace,” she says.

“The new Doctor of Human Services aims to integrate workplace-based research and scholarly analysis, providing people who are already in the field with greater mobility in the workforce.

“It will also help to develop better understandings of the needs of human service consumers and workplaces through industry-based and cross disciplinary research.

“It recognises the changes that have taken place in human service organisations and government funding structures in recent years, and offers a program that is not only useful to the candidate but also of value to employers.”

For more information on the new Doctor of Human Services Research, contact the School of Social Work and Social Policy on (08) 8302 4378 or email adrian.vicary@unisa.edu.au

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Chancellors come together



University Chancellors from all around Australia came together at UniSA on August 8. Topics discussed included the Nelson Review, university governance, risk management and commercial enterprises. The chancellors enjoyed an official dinner with guest speaker Jane Lomax-Smith, who talked about the Federal Government's proposals for higher education reform. The event was also attended by Professor Deryck Schreuder and John Mullarvey from the Australian Vice Chancellor's Committee.

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10-year staff thanked

Seventy four UniSA staff members were presented with 10 year service awards at two celebrations held in August.

UniSA's Vice Chancellor, Professor Denise Bradley paid testament to the hard work and adaptability of the award recipients.



"UniSA is a profoundly different institution than it was 10, or even five years ago," she said. "During all these years of change and excitement there's been one constant, and that's been staff. I want to thank all of you for your continued effort and commitment."

Each staff member was presented with a specially designed UniSA pin.

Award recipients representing UniSA's four divisions, from left, Murray Oliver, Sharron King, Wasim Saman and Elizabeth Ho.

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Enterprising team triumph

UniSA students held their own against teams from 21 other universities in the recent Students in Free Enterprise national competition held in Melbourne.



Three UniSA teams entered the competition which aims to help students develop their leadership, teamwork and communication skills by devising projects that empower others with knowledge to improve their lives.

The City East team won the award for best 'rookie' team, and the City West team just missed the final round, while the Mawson Lakes team placed third in their league.

CEO of SIFE John Thornton, said the competition had been possible thanks to various sponsors, including UniSA. As a token of thanks he inducted UniSA's Vice Chancellor Denise Bradley (pictured left with Thornton) into the SIFE 'Hall of Fame'.

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Our people - Alick Kay



While studying for my science degree my major joy was biochemistry, but I did not continue in that field as I was told that the only opportunities would be in academia (and I didn't want to spend my life in an institution) or in hospitals (and I didn't want to spend my life in a sick institution).

Instead, I continued study in my other major, psychology, since there were a greater range of options and one could avoid spending one's life surrounded by sick people (unless one specialized in clinical psychology, which I avoided). So from there the career path was obvious ... lecturing in management!

Of course there were some minor steps in between, and one was going overseas. While in London, I sought work at an employment agency and filled in a form with my credentials. I proudly listed a B.Sc.(Hons.) in psychology. The secretary glanced at it and asked: "But, can you use a photocopier?", to which I replied: "Yes! Yes I can, and have done so on more than one occasion!" Within 24 hours I was fronting up to the Shell complex for two weeks of photocopying documents.

When that position ended I was slotted into another that lasted 18 months where I was involved in training employees and processing documentation for the building of North-Sea oil rigs.

Generally, the environment at Shell was fun. However, my boss was a chain-smoking, gray-haired, red-nosed, misery-guts geriatric, who celebrated his 35th birthday soon after I arrived. It did concern me that high-level job stress can have adverse effects. (One of my specialty lectures I give now is on stress management).

I have also run a business, worked as a consultant and spent some years on-air at two community radio stations.

I'm often on the lookout for new course ideas to give students a competitive advantage. I like one from Seinfeld: 'Looking busy while doing no work'. That consists of training people to walk briskly between offices carrying folders and looking anxious. A skilful employee could almost get away for a whole week not doing anything by adopting this 'skill'.

To conclude, a humorist once noted that soccer players engage in a variety of antics once they score a goal, however, scoring goals is what they are paid to do! If this could be extrapolated to other professions, could we then expect a lecturer, after giving a great lecture, giving a 'high five' to each of the students?... And what about chairing a meeting where all items on the agenda are covered within the time limit and all voting is unanimous....could the chairperson then jump on the table for a short dance and a hand-stand? Just wondering ...

Alick Kay is a program director for the Bachelors of Management in the School of International Business, is a registered psychologist in South Australia, a member of the Australian Psychological Society and the College of Occupational Psychologists

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