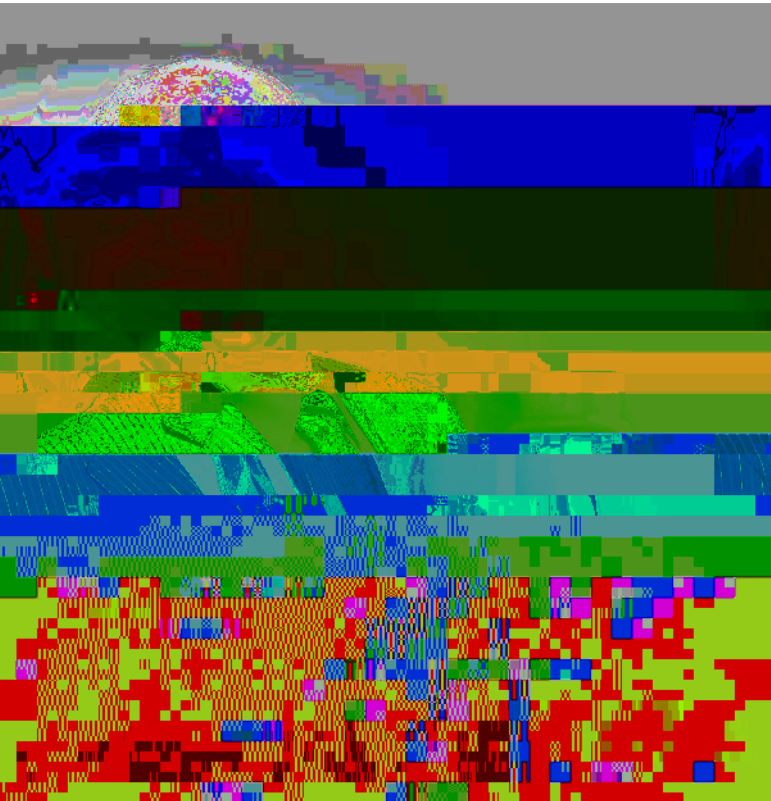


Aide

April 2010

Adelaidean

Adelaidean is the official newspaper of the University of Adelaide. It provides news and information about the University to the general public.





Online student services are UNIFIED

Students at the University of Adelaide now have a single website from which they can access all of their student systems and personal information.

Called UNIFIED, the site is a gateway (or portal) to a wide range of services, information and resources that students need.

UNIFIED enables students to use their email and calendar, watch and listen to recordings of lectures, view the list of courses they're taking and the grades they've received, search the University's library catalogue and access information about loans they've made, receive uni news feeds and announcements, and use interactive campus maps – with many more services still to come.

Students are able to access all of this and more through a central website with a single login.

UNIFIED was launched on the first day of Orientation Week (O'Week) and has already been visited tens of thousands of times by students.

"UNIFIED, which in simple terms is a portal for students to access a range of services, is a significant change in the way we interact with and deliver services to our students," said Mr Paul Duldig, Vice President (Services and Resources).

"UNIFIED's launch means that new students in 2010 are able to benefit from a cleaner, simpler, and more relevant way of accessing the information and services they need, helping to make their first University experience a truly positive one.

"Today's students are busier than ever – with study, work, sport and social events keeping most students on the move. UNIFIED will help students save time if they're searching for information and accessing resources they need, because that information is now in one place. UNIFIED can also be customised to suit individual students' needs."

Mr Duldig said students were already providing all-important feedback on UNIFIED – "how it's working for them, what else they expect from it and how we can keep meeting their needs".

"With this kind of feedback, students will continue to benefit greatly from UNIFIED," Mr Duldig said.

One student wrote about UNIFIED: "Love this new site! It's so much better to only log in once and have everything I need on that site. Good job! It's easy to read and navigate too. Thank you."

Another wrote: "I'm so impressed with UNIFIED! Why didn't someone think of this earlier!"

See also UNIFIED in the Student Magazine
http://j.ed.adelaide.edu.au/

Story by David Ellis

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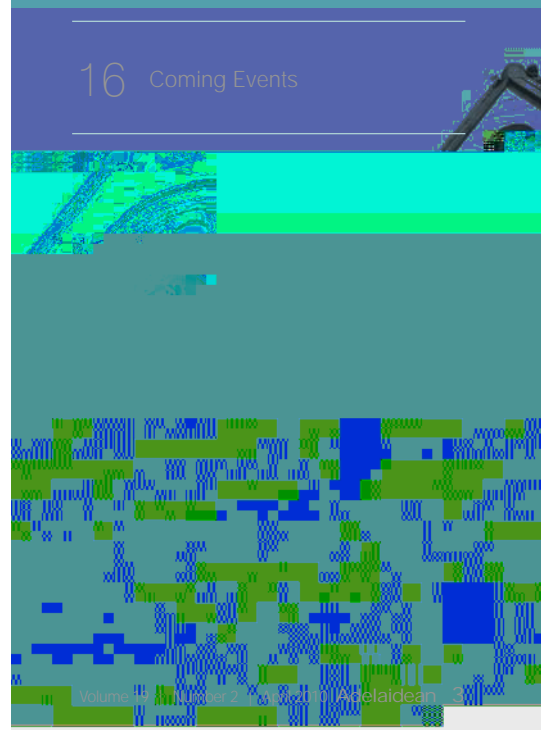
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The University Student Transition Experience Program (UniStep) is a semester-long orientation program that began in Orientation Week (O'Week) with traditional O'Week activities focusing on helping students find their way, providing opportunities to meet other students, attend preliminary lectures and participate in a range of social activities.

"Reality Bites" sessions were also

Presented last month by Senator Kim



Bone density tests crucial for older women

One of Australia's leading osteoporosis experts has called on the Federal Government to provide free bone density tests to menopausal women in a bid to save taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

University of Adelaide Visiting Professor Chris Nordin AO says 16,000 people are hospitalised in Australia each year with hip fractures, most of which he considers are preventable with diet and lifestyle.

Professor Nordin, who has more than 50 years' experience in his field, was among 70 national experts on osteoporosis and nutrition at a recent two-day workshop at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Medical experts discussed the importance of calcium, Vitamin D, a low-salt diet and exercise in the prevention of osteoporosis and the urgent need for a national bone density measurement test for all women at menopause.

"There is no public preventive policy at either State or Commonwealth level, despite osteoporosis costing the country at least \$1 billion each year in the management of fractures," Professor Nordin said.

"The indirect costs far exceed that figure."

Professor Nordin said many women were unaware that their calcium requirements rise sharply once they reach menopause, and unless they take more calcium their bone density will fall.

Taking steps towards cheaper space flight

University of Adelaide researchers will help design a hypersonic aircraft as a first step towards cheaper satellite-launching space vehicles.

The University of Adelaide team is part of an international consortium granted \$5 million under the Federal Government's new Australian Space Research Program.

The partners will investigate and develop hypersonic scramjet propulsion technology for a future scramjet-based "access-to-space" industry, rather than just conventional rockets.

A scramjet is an air-breathing combustion engine that can fly faster than the speed of sound (mach 1) and is capable of hypersonic speeds (faster than mach 5). Cost savings can be achieved through the engine's ability to take in air to mix with fuel for combustion.

"Conventional rockets used to launch satellites into orbit or space shuttles have to carry rocket fuel and oxidiser which is very expensive," said Dr Con Doolan, Senior Lecturer in the School of Mechanical Engineering and leader of the University of Adelaide team.

"The air-breathing scramjets still need fuel but don't need the oxidiser, with the potential for substantially reducing the cost per kilogram of transporting payloads into space."

The aim is to produce a hybrid launch vehicle where one stage out of three in a conventional rocket will be replaced with a scramjet vehicle.

"Normally the rocket takes the vehicle to the edge of space and then the second and third stages boost its velocity to put it into orbit," Dr Doolan said.

"We're hoping eventually to be able to replace one stage – probably the second – with a scramjet capable of mach 14 or 15. That's the sort of speed necessary for space flight."

This first-phase project has two parts: a ground test program seeking to extend the potential of scramjets to mach 14 speeds, and designing and building a hypersonic scramjet vehicle with flight testing at mach 8 to take place at Woomera.

The University of Adelaide team, which also includes Associate Professor Ben Cazzolato and Dr Laura Brooks, will be taking the lead on investigating a hypersonic vehicle's dynamics and control.

"We don't really yet understand how to control scramjet-powered vehicles in flight – how to keep them stable and how to execute a manoeuvre," said Dr Doolan. "We'll be leading the research on that aspect."

The mach 8 flight test data will be used to verify ground testing results from wind tunnel facilities. By the end of the three-year project, the researchers should be ready to design and flight test a scramjet at space flight speeds, Dr Doolan said.

The other partners in the program are University of Queensland, the University of New South Wales, the University of Southern Queensland, University of Minnesota in the US, and international aerospace organisations DLR in Germany, the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency and CIRA of Italy, as well as the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), the Australian Youth Aerospace Forum, BAE Systems Australia, Boeing Research and Technology Australia, AIMTEK Pty Ltd and Teakle Composites Pty Ltd.

Story Robyn Mills



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Scholarships help students to soar

More than 130 of the best new undergraduate students starting at the University of Adelaide this year are sharing in over \$1.5 million worth of scholarships.

The University's range of scholarships is aimed at supporting top students, including those from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Among this year's scholarship winners was James Francis, 18, from Kadina, who was the 2010 winner of the Andy Thomas Scholarship; and Samantha Iannella, 17, from Mt Gambier, who was one of the recipients of the prestigious Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships.

"Scholarships change lives. They are vital in supporting our students, giving them the best possible chance of gaining a quality educational experience," said the University's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

"Scholarships help to take the financial pressure off students. In some cases it means they don't need to get a job to support themselves while they study, helping them to focus on their education. In other cases it can pay for the essentials of their learning – such as textbooks or a new computer – or to relocate from rural areas to the city.

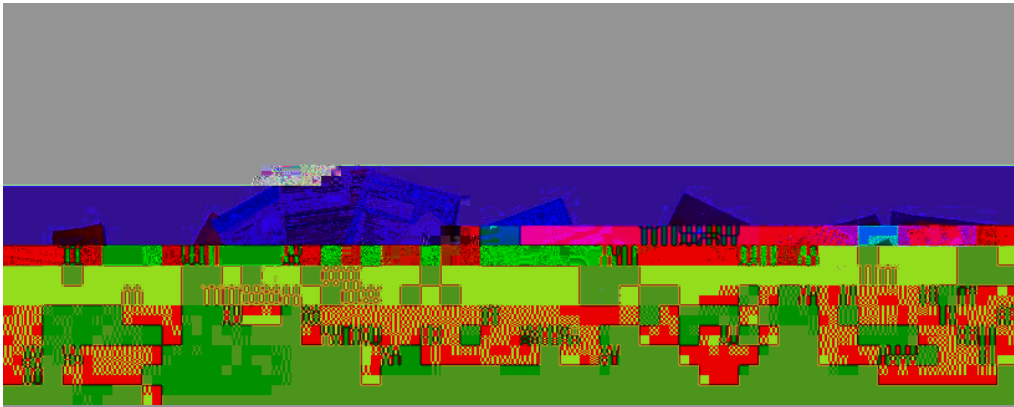
"Scholarships also act as an incentive for students to achieve excellence in their studies.

"With our range of scholarships schemes, the University of Adelaide is demonstrating an ongoing commitment to educating students based on their ability, regardless of background."

Last month, the University held a special scholarships presentation ceremony for new students in Bonython Hall. The scholarships provided to new undergraduate students at the ceremony were:



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Science is drawcard for agriculture students

Students enrolled in the new agriculture degree offered by the University of Adelaide have endorsed the revised curriculum, which has a greater focus on science and industry experience.

A total of 39 students started their Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree last month, with classes at both the Waite and Roseworthy campuses.

Students will benefit from a substantial investment in facilities at both campuses to keep them at the forefront of teaching and research, according to the Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, Professor Roger Leigh.

"The University is investing \$1 million per annum in new agricultural research activities at the Waite Campus over the next five years. It is also undertaking a major expansion and refurbishment of the Roseworthy Campus to cater for a substantial increase in student numbers there. The students in the Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree will benefit from these changes," Professor Leigh said.

The Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree combines science with practical and industry experience, and includes a number of interstate field trips as well as 12-week industry internships.

Enrolments for the combined agricultural degree are as strong as those for the

two former degrees – the Bachelor of Agriculture, based mainly at Roseworthy, and the Bachelor of Sciences (Agricultural Sciences) taught at Waite.

"It shows that students have endorsed a new direction in agriculture education," Professor Leigh said.

A third of the first-year students in the new degree gained TER scores above 80, with one student scoring 96.8 in his Year 12 assessment. Up to 30% of the students also come from metropolitan environments.

"This underlines the fact that agriculture is appealing to a broad range of students, from different backgrounds and academic ability," Professor Leigh said.

"All will graduate with very bright job prospects because Australia desperately needs skilled people in this area. A degree in agriculture also offers a diversity of career options, which is appealing."

First-year student John Swincer has grown up in the city but has always been interested in a career that involves both animals and the land. He said the degree fulfilled these requirements.

Hahndorf resident James Walter lives on a farm in the Adelaide Hills and was prompted to apply for the degree to satisfy his interest in science, plants and genetics.

Romy Bennett of Mundulla in the state's south-east comes from a sheep, cattle and cropping property and said the emphasis on science in the new curriculum proved a drawcard for her: "It is a more appealing degree now and I think the focus on science will broaden our knowledge and improve our job prospects."

Laura Hammond from the Victorian rural town of Lindenow has just finished a gap year and chose the Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences because it combines both her passions: agriculture and science.

This year's cohort comprises 25 males and 14 females, including one international student.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: The majority of the 39 students enrolled in the new Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree at the University of Adelaide, flanked by Professor Roger Leigh (far left) and Professor Glenn McDonald

Photo by Chris Tonkin

The Hawker Scholarships, valued at up to \$60,000 over four years, are the most generous privately funded scholarships available to undergraduate and postgraduate students in Australia.

The scholarships are awarded to academically gifted students "of principle and character, who are committed to Australia's future".

Seven Hawker Scholarships have been awarded in Australia in 2010, with four of the scholars enrolled at the University of Adelaide and resident at St Mark's College in Adelaide.

University of Adelaide students Sarah Dickins, Jonathan Hamer, Alicia Hurkmans and Melanie Johnson were presented with their scholarship certificates last month at a function at St Mark's.

Sarah, a former Mt Gambier High School student, is studying Law and Science at the University of Adelaide; Jonathan, from

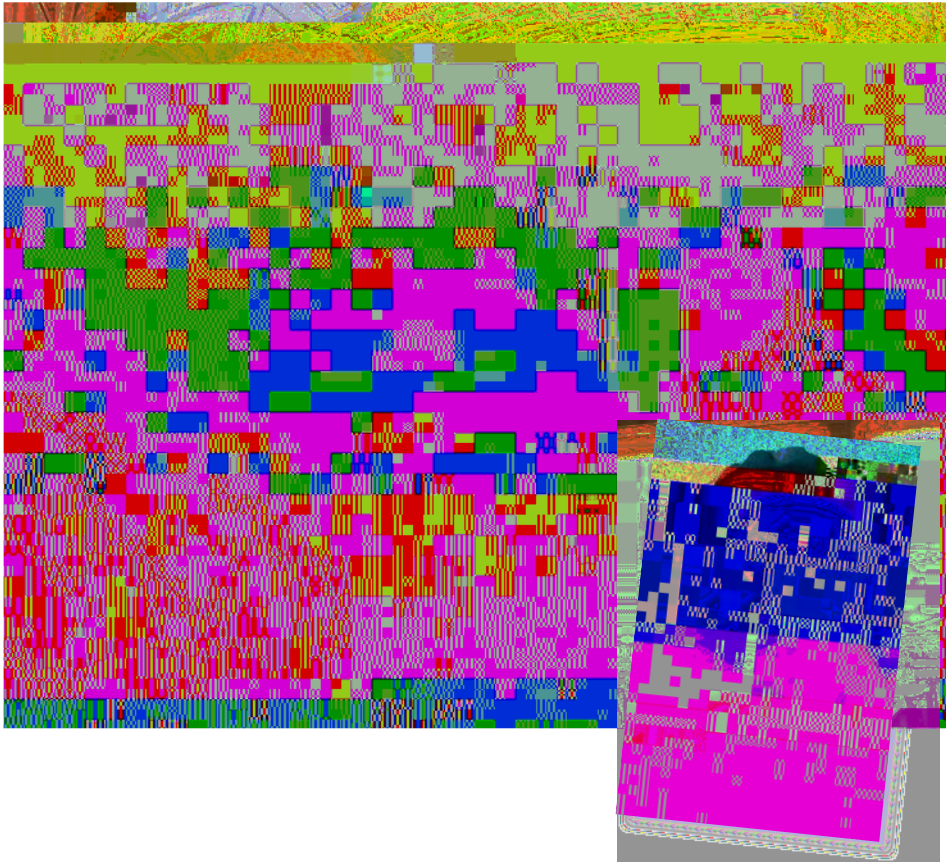
St Peter's College, is an Arts/Law student; Alicia, who studied at Trinity College, is undertaking a double degree in Chemical Engineering and Science; while Melanie, a former Unley High School student, is studying Law and Health Science.

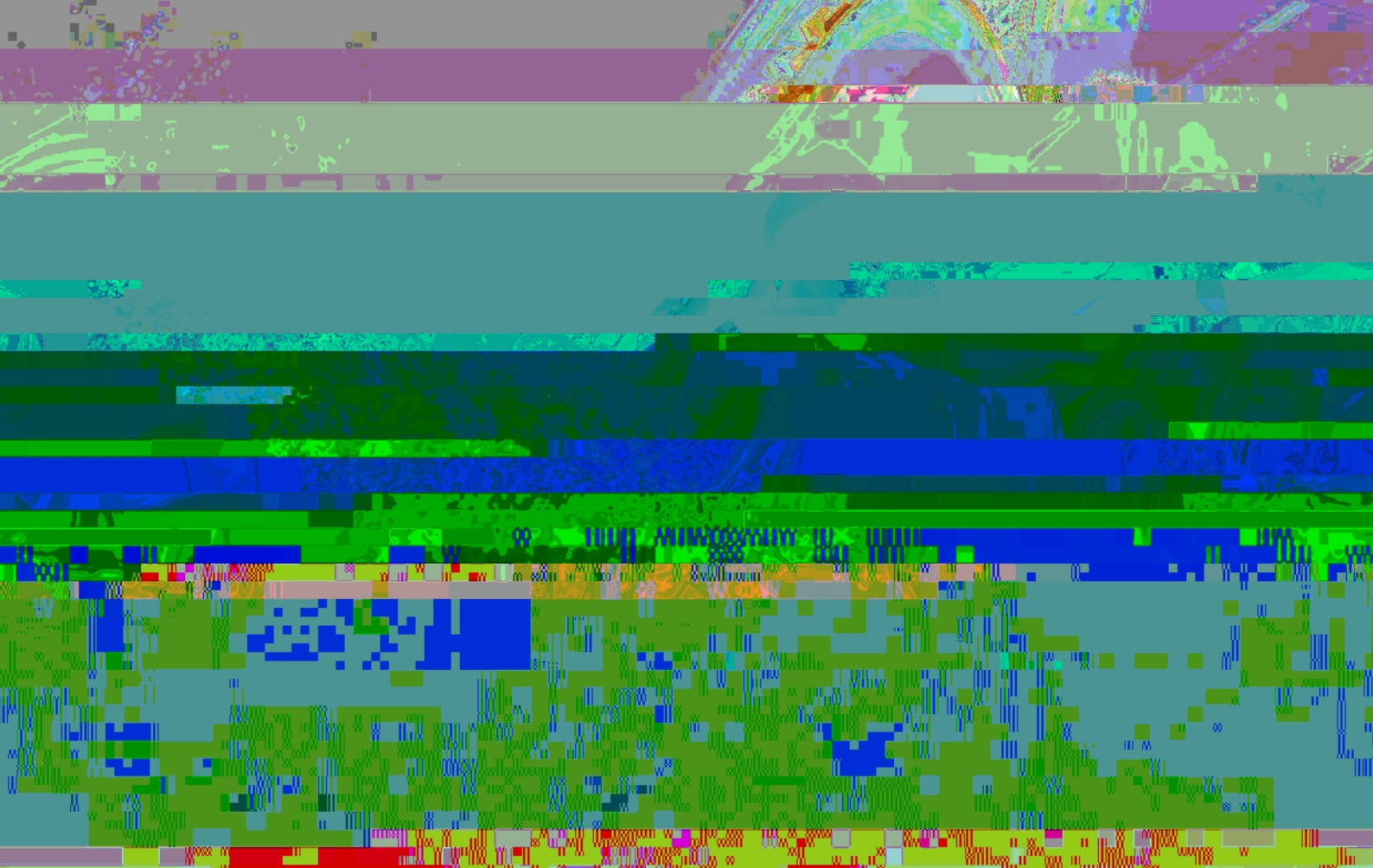
Since 1991, the Trustees have awarded almost \$4 million to 90 young Australians, including a significant number from regional areas. The seven successful candidates for 2010 were awarded a Charles Hawker Scholarship from a strong field of 280 applicants.

"These scholarships have provided opportunities for an increasing number of young Australian students to undertake further studies to achieve their full potential," said former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Member for Wannan and Hawker family member the Hon. David Hawker MP.

"The Charles Hawker Scholarship is one of the most important in Australia. I commend the Trustees for the contribution the scholarship has already made and will continue to make to the education of a number of outstanding young Australians.

"Each of these recipients has already displayed a strong commitment to the ideals upon which the Charles Hawker Scholarship

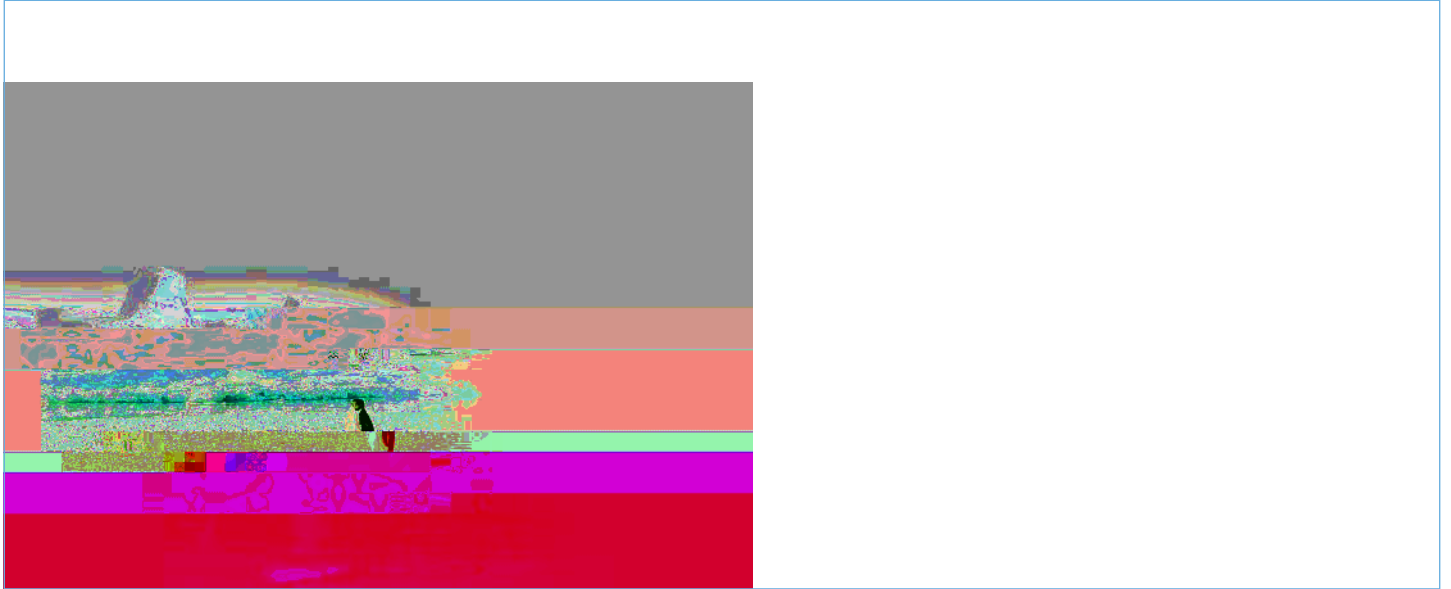




Graduates Matthew Lee, Lewis Tunstall and

The University of Adelaide

COMING EVENTS



Northern Lights

Three of the University of Adelaide's historic architectural icons are again featured in this colourful display as part of the official program of the Adelaide Festival.

When :