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LET'S FROM THE UNIVE



Nobel Prize-winner opens \$2.5 million lab in his name

Medicine and nursing students from the University of Adelaide will gain vital clinical skills thanks to a new, state-of-the-art teaching facility named after one of the University's most illustrious medical graduates, Emeritus Professor J. Robin Warren AC.

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New role to focus on student experience

The University of Adelaide has a new head to oversee the student experience with the appointment of Professor Denise Kirkpatrick as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience).

Professor Kirkpatrick (right) has an impressive academic record working at a senior level in open and distance, dual-mode and on-campus universities both in Australia and abroad.

Prior to taking up her appointment in May, she was Pro Vice-Chancellor at the Open University in the United Kingdom for nearly five years.

In her previous role she was responsible for designing and delivering learning materials for students and developing policies relating to the application of new media, quality assurance, and practice and teaching standards.

Professor Kirkpatrick was also Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at La Trobe

University in Melbourne from 2005 to 2007 and has worked in a number of Australian universities, leading and managing learning and teaching including distance learning operations.

In announcing the University of Adelaide appointment, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic), Professor Pascale Quester, said the new role would focus on providing an integrated experience for each student.

"Professor Kirkpatrick has been at the forefront of creating and delivering strategies that recognise student needs and, more importantly, provide an environment that allows them to realise their potential," Professor Quester said.

"Bringing Professor Kirkpatrick to Adelaide is a key part of our commitment to transforming the student experience. Her academic background and unwavering student-centred approach aligns perfectly with our agenda to further enhance learning and teaching."

Professor Kirkpatrick said she welcomed the opportunity to support the University of Adelaide's investment in teaching and learning.

"I am delighted to be joining such a prestigious and well regarded university," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with a vibrant campus community and particularly to ensuring that we use Hub Central to its fullest."

"Technology can really make a difference to the ways in which students learn. I believe the University is really well positioned to provide our students with a rich, high quality, contemporary education," she said.

London fellowship for water expert

University of Adelaide water and environmental policy expert Professor Mike Young is undertaking a 10-week fellowship in London to help find solutions to water issues in the United Kingdom.

Professor Young (right), one of Australia's leading experts on water management, is working alongside UK colleagues in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The fellowship has been facilitated through his recent appointment as an Honorary Professor within the UCL Environment Institute at University College London.

"Most Australians think of the United Kingdom as being a lush, green, rainy environment, free of water issues," Professor Young said.

"In reality, it is faced with water

management challenges similar to those experienced in Australia over the last decade."

In December 2011, the UK's Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs presented a Water White Paper to Parliament, setting out a plan to address a wide range of emerging water management challenges arising from climate change and increasing demand for water from population growth.

"Water scarcity is now a real issue in the UK, and one of the government's biggest challenges is to search for ways to improve its water licensing system," Professor Young said.

"Hosepipe bans" (water restrictions) have been introduced in some areas in response to two winters running down ground water, with potential impacts from water shortages on recreation, wildlife and the price of fresh produce. In other areas, communities are dealing with floods.

"The full spectrum of water resource management challenges is on the table," Professor Young said.



UCL's Vice-Provost (International) Professor Michael Worton, who visited Adelaide in March, said he was delighted to see the emergence of a two-way exchange of knowledge between the two universities.

"UCL is bringing knowledge about mining and energy to Australia and Adelaide is bringing knowledge about water to the United Kingdom. Increasingly, research is becoming an international activity," he said.

In a unique collaboration with the traditional owners of the Lake Eyre region – the Arabunna People – University of Adelaide researchers will help develop the first Indigenous climate change adaptation plan for their region.

The \$240,000 groundbreaking project will identify how vulnerable this Indigenous community is to climate change and how as a group it might adapt to those changes.

Scientific reports suggest Arabunna country, which includes Lake Eyre, is likely to get both wetter and hotter in decades to come.

*Average annual temperatures could rise by more than four degrees Celsius and

Flagship building given Kurna name

The University's new Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences building has been officially named Ingkarni Wardli, a Kurna name which means place of learning or enquiry.

In a special 'place-naming' ceremony during National Reconciliation Week, Ingkarni Wardli became the first building on the University's North Terrace Campus to have a Kurna name.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha AO said Ingkarni Wardli recognised the special relationship the University of Adelaide shared with the Kurna people, the original custodians of the land on which the University's campuses are located.

"This building is the flagship of the University's \$400 million capital works program to build world-class research and teaching facilities for our students and staff," Professor McWha said. "It has already had significant recognition as Australia's first 6 Star Green Star education building for environmental sustainable design.

"We are honoured to name this building Ingkarni Wardli, in recognition of the Kurna people and their continuing strong ties with the University's campuses as the original custodians of the land.

"Ingkarni Wardli demonstrates the University's strong commitment to environmental sustainability, a belief echoed by the Kurna people."

Professor McWha joined Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences Professor Peter Dowd, Dean of Aboriginal Education Centre Wilto Yerlo Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney,

and Kurna Elder Uncle Lewis O'Brien in welcoming the new name.

Later the same day, he told the University's annual Reconciliation Week celebration that there could be no full Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people without Recognition.

The nine-level building was the largest construction project in the University's current extensive infrastructure development program.

It contains more than 11,000 square metre

25 years of Aboriginal education

The University of Adelaide celebrates 25 years of Aboriginal education in 2012. The *Adelaidean* spoke to Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney, the Dean of Wilto Yerlo, about the milestones in the last quarter of a century and the challenges that lie ahead.

Q: What have been the major milestones in Aboriginal education at the University of Adelaide in the past 25 years?

A: The University has grown a cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders that are the first in their fields in many cases.

Since the appointment of the University's first Aboriginal Liaison Officer in 1987 to recruit more Indigenous students to tertiary study, a number of milestones have been achieved. These include Indigenous anthropology student Rebecca Richards making history in 2010 as Australia's first Aboriginal Rhodes Scholar, and the University's acknowledgment of the Kaurna people as original inhabitants of its land.

Other notable Indigenous alumni include:

- Associate Professor Irene Watson, the University's first Indigenous postgraduate student who was awarded the Bonython Law School Prize for her PhD in 2000;
- Yvonne Clark, the first Aboriginal student to be awarded a Master's degree in Psychology in 1997;
- Sonny Flynn, the first University of Adelaide Indigenous undergraduate student who completed his BArts (Honours) in 1986;
- Dylan Coleman, PhD Creative Writing graduate who in 2011 won the \$20,000 Arts Queensland David Unaipon Award for an unpublished Indigenous writer.

The establishment of a dedicated centre for Aboriginal education, Wilto Yerlo: the signing of the Reconciliation Statement in 2003 and the launching of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy in 2006 all stand as historic markers for the University.

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) is also a major success story as it has produced very talented musicians who have embedded Indigenous knowledge into the music conservatory.

Q: How has the University addressed the under-representation of Indigenous staff and students?

A: Currently we have 24 Indigenous staff and 169 Indigenous students at the University. When you consider that the first

Aboriginal to graduate from an Australian university was in 1969 – just 43 years ago – those numbers are extremely impressive. We have particularly had a lot of success recruiting Indigenous women as University staff members, although we still have a way to go to meet parity with the national Indigenous workforce participation rate of 2%.

From a student perspective, Indigenous females also outnumber the males and are choosing diverse degrees, from medicine to nursing, health sciences, the humanities and social sciences.

We are seeing increasing numbers of Indigenous students who are coming straight from school with strong Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks, many from regional areas. The growth in Indigenous scholarships at the University is also enabling many Aboriginal students to access higher education which was previously out of their reach.

Areas we need to work on from both an Indigenous student and staff perspective are the maths, science and engineering disciplines.

Q: How important is higher education in closing the inequality gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians?

A: Universities and school transition to higher education are really important parts of the solution, particularly when it comes to addressing health and education inequalities. That is why it's so important to educate Indigenous health professionals and teachers who can go back to their communities after graduation and make a significant difference.

Q: It's been almost 10 years since the University of Adelaide signed the Reconciliation Statement. How important has this been?

A: The Reconciliation Statement is based on a need to embed and build Aboriginal perspectives into our curriculum and campus

life, rather than "bolt" them on. I think we have made great strides in developing policies that are sensitive to Indigenous culture and practices. Much of this is due to the efforts of the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor McWha, who has been a great champion of Indigenous peoples. It's important, however, that we do not rest on our laurels. Aboriginal education is the responsibility of everyone in the University, not just a select few.

Story by Candy Gibson

Below: Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney.

Photo by Candy Gibson

The 23-year-old Aboriginal student
finished high school with a disappointing



How many people within the University's staff and student body – which collectively number around 30,000 – can actually recite

My entry into research has only been recent so, despite my age, I am still termed an early career researcher. The first small project that I submitted was motivated by research on African-American youth in Chicago and what the investigators described as 'steep future-discounting'. While it was not about an Australian country town such as Port Augusta (where 20% of the population are Aboriginal), but rather an old US city (where 30% plus are 'black' and where there are well established universities), the factors affecting the youth in that study that led to them discounting their own futures 'steeply' were issues such as the shortened life expectancy of their fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts and cousins. These are the people who provide the love and sustenance for youth and who prepare a future for youth. When they pass on before their time as they do in the Aboriginal community, the impact is powerful.

Aboriginal people know this picture and they know the extreme outcome of that; of what youth suicide does to Aboriginal communities across Australia and they want action to stop it as any community would, but especially a community who were systematically excluded both socially and psychologically from Australian society. Doing research on such matters requires a long-term relationship with a community.

When I worked as a clinical manager in an Aboriginal health service in the late

1980s, my response in an interview about Aboriginal health research overall was that it was 'over-researched and under-resourced'. In those days, all health research was led by non-Indigenous researchers as there were very few Indigenous health graduates (the first Indigenous medical graduate was 1984). The research was also dominated by a biomedical approach and overall served government agendas and non-Indigenous perspectives on what needed to be done.

Thankfully, this has changed and the leadership provided today by that first medical graduate and many others like her has changed the approach to Aboriginal health research to an inter-disciplinary response and an agenda that is determined by Aboriginal people as well as non-Aboriginal people.

A way of building that long-term relationship, and participating in action that is crucial to long-lasting wellbeing for Aboriginal youth and the Aboriginal community in general, is through addressing the social determinants of health. Education and early life experience is an essential part of that and the Commonwealth – through the COAG's Addressing Indigenous Disadvantage – outlines this in detail. Port Augusta and the northern suburbs of Adelaide are the two sites that the Commonwealth is focusing on in South Australia in the work on Closing the Gap.

Health programs offered by the University of Adelaide in Port Augusta show a commitment to all these matters. It also reminds us of what we need to be doing in the metropolitan area where voices in the community are easily drowned out..

Associate Professor Jenny Baker is Director of the Yaiya Purrana Indigenous Health Unit in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Population, migration focus

A new research centre focused on developing a sustainable population and workforce strategy for Australia and the Asia Pacific has been launched at the University of Adelaide.

The world-class centre, headed by one of the country's leading demographers, Professor Graeme Hugo, recently awarded an AO in the Queen's Birthday Honours, will also look at international patterns of migration and the challenges posed by an ageing society.

The Australian Population and Migration Research Centre will work collaboratively with a number of leading universities in the Asia Pacific region, as well as the United Kingdom and United States.

"Australia and the Asia Pacific are at a critical crossroads in this area, so the timing could not be better," Professor Hugo said.

"We aim to produce a balance of really high quality research as well as undertake contract work for large scale international organisations such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank."

Professor Hugo is well known on the international front for his research into demographic trends and sits on a number of Federal and State Government committees relating to population, ageing and immigration.

"South Australia has taken the lead nationally in population policy and the people involved in this new centre have a(e a foTJO -10 -liJ02 74n thisa 78.242 cm 0 0 m170.

Nineteen-year-old Sarah, who is enrolled in her first year of Law and International Studies and is a resident of St Mark's College, is one of only two Charles Hawker Scholars selected in Australia this year.

The former Darwin resident, who grew up in a multicultural environment in the Northern Territory, is passionate about Indigenous education and hopes to use her University of Adelaide double degree to combine her interests of law, international relations and Indigenous affairs.

South Australian-born Sarah moved to Darwin at an early age and studied at Kormilda College before completing her secondary education as a boarder at Walford Anglican School for Girls in 2010, gaining an ATAR of 99.25.

Sarah was captain of the softball team and represented Walford in swimming, water polo, netball and the triathlon. She was also a class representative and trained as a peer leader.

Sarah took a gap year in 2011, working in the United Kingdom at Glebe House in

Norfolk, an independent co-educational day and boarding school.

The Hawker Scholarships are one of the most generously privately funded scholarships available to undergraduate students in Australia, with almost \$4 million awarded to 96 young people since 1991.

The scholarship perpetuates the memory of one of Australia's most respected pastoral pioneers, Charles Hawker, who served with distinction in the First World War and went on to become a distinguished scholar and leading figure in the Federal Parliament prior to his tragic and untimely death in an aircraft accident in 1938.

The other Charles Hawker recipient for 2012 is Patrick Clark from Bendigo, Victoria.

Above: Sarah Dowd pictured with the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, at the scholarship ceremony.

Photo by Rosey Boehm Photography

They have been employed within the fields of nanotechnology, hydrological engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering and electrical and electronic engineering.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Mike Brooks said these appointments were an excellent example of how the University builds on existing strengths to create new opportunities.

"Their expertise not only enhances the development and promotion of research for real outcomes across the University, but also helps to promote the necessary critical mass required for research projects of national importance," he said.

Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences Executive Dean Professor Peter Dowd said the appointments were part of a coordinated strategy to raise research profiles in selected areas.

"These six researchers are at the top of their fields and have much to contribute to the further development of research in the

World Heritage bid for Mt Lofty Ranges

Researchers from the University of Adelaide have recommended that four councils in Adelaide's Mount Lofty Ranges and the State Government should jointly pursue a bid for World Heritage listing of the region.

In a report released this month, the findings support a proposed bid for UNESCO World Heritage listing of the working agricultural landscape of the Adelaide Hills, the Barossa Valley, Mount Barker and McLaren Vale.

According to the study's authors, World Heritage listing would protect the Mount Lofty Ranges' unique qualities as a working agricultural region. The region's food, wine and tourism industries could be globally branded accordingly.

If successful, the Mount Lofty Ranges would join other working agricultural sites in Italy, Portugal, Hungary and Mexico to be recognised in this way.

Funded by the Adelaide Hills Council, The Barossa Council, District Council of Mount Barker and the City of Onkaparinga, the 18-month study was led by Professor Randy Stringer from the University of Adelaide's School of Agriculture, Food and Wine and the Environment Institute.

The councils are currently considering the study's findings.

"World Heritage listing for agricultural landscapes is very rare, and rarer still for working, evolving agricultural landscapes," said Professor Stringer, a University of Adelaide agricultural economist who has had extensive experience with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

"Achieving World Heritage Site status would aim to conserve the unique qualities of the Mount Lofty Ranges, not just for future generations of Australians but also for the world. This would not be seen as turning the Ranges into a museum, but protecting its status as a working, growing, changing landscape under local planning control.

"World Heritage listing would provide the globally recognised branding that our food, wine and tourism industries are seeking – it would tell the story of what makes this place so special to the outside world, and to the people of Adelaide."

The report concludes that seeking World Heritage status is a no-lose proposition, whether or not it succeeds.

"World Heritage status has evolved into a widely respected brand that countries use to attract tourists and to promote and add value to their products," Professor Stringer said. "For me it all comes down to answering one question: 'If we can get it, why wouldn't we?'"

The four councils will be asked to contribute \$10,000 a year from July to fund three years of project management, communication, research and documentation by the Mount Lofty Ranges Working Group. The State Government will be asked for \$50,000 a year for three years.

Story by David Ellis

Below: Professor Randy Stringer in the foreground of the Mt Lofty Ranges

Photo by Matt Turner, *The Advertiser*

Health sciences student Annette Edmondson has been selected to compete in the gruelling Omnium – a cycling event consisting of six different races – and is also a member of the extended pre-squad for the Team Pursuit, a three-kilometre time trial in a team of four.

The 20-year-old cyclist is considered a strong chance for a medal after outstanding performances at the 2012 Track World Championships, held in April this year, when she won silver in both the Omnium and the Team Pursuit.

In a rare double at the Olympics, Annette will compete alongside her 18-year-old brother Alexander, who has also qualified for the Olympics in track cycling, just one year after making the senior Australian team.

It is the first time that Australia has been represented by siblings in track cycling at an Olympic Games.

"It's incredible that my little brother has managed to make the team, too," Annette

said. "It's a situation that neither of us thought was possible for 2012," she said.

Annette started her Bachelor of Health Sciences degree in 2011 and has deferred her studies this year to concentrate on the Olympics but hopes to pick up the books again in 2013.

Meanwhile, Architecture student Leanne Choo, nicknamed "Choobuka" by her team mates, hopes to celebrate her 21st birthday next month with an Olympic medal in badminton.

Leanne, who took up badminton at the age of eight, has been ranked as high as 26 in the world in the women's doubles and represented Australia at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, reaching the quarter finals in the doubles.

Leanne currently lives in Melbourne but is studying Architecture part-time at the University of Adelaide while she pursues her sporting dream.

Time management is her biggest challenge in combining tertiary studies

with her sporting commitments, particularly given the travel that is involved in professional sport.

Along with Annette, she is a member of the University of Adelaide's Elite Athlete Support Program, which helps approximately 50 students balance their academic and sporting commitments.

"The flexibility this program allows us makes a big difference," she said. "My lecturers and tutors are aware of my situation and have been willing to negotiate my course with alternative assessments."

The Olympic Games badminton events
