

Adelaidean

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NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

JULY 28, 1997

O.E.H. Consulting, operating under Luminis Pty Ltd, and based in the Department of Public Health, has secured a contract with the SA Department for Industrial Affairs to provide 24-hr on-call advice to emergen-



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German historian praises Australian example, p.5

Microbes offer 'glowing' solution to pollution, p.6

When the Centre for European Studies officially came into being on 1 September 1996, it was largely as a result of the recommendations of the 1994 Review of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Predictably, in terms of the ideology that currently shapes our University system, this Review had recommended that the Faculty of Arts reduce the number of its academic departments and encourage greater interaction between its disciplines.

Whilst the latter point was well taken and swiftly led to new teaching ventures throughout the Faculty, the former was, predictably, greeted with a less than enthusiastic response by most of the prospective partners for the mergers envisaged.

However, for those amongst us who shared real academic affinities, cross-departmental collaboration did indeed begin to offer tangible benefits, especially following the introduction of new interdisciplinary awards in the Faculty in 1995.

Academic arguments in favour of closer forms of cooperation then acquired greater strength and later came to prevail over the economic and political arguments which had originally dictated the amalgamation agenda.

The moment was then right for negotiations to take place between the four disciplines of Classics, French Studies, German Studies and Linguistics, all of which voluntarily and cheerfully signed an agreement in December 1995 to form, over a three year transitional period, the Centre for European Studies.

And this cheerfulness has in many ways been justified by subsequent events; even though the pre-history of the merger may have been marked by diffidence, prudence, or even anxiety, such has certainly not been the story of the Centre's first year of operation.

1996 and 1997 have seen some significant teaching initiatives, both launched and in preparation, but also the first stirrings of a collective spirit amongst those whose sense of identity had, until now, been bound up in the long history of their discipline and in the place that it occupied, both metaphorically and physically, within this University.

In spite of the feeling of loss that inevitably comes from the substitution of one form of identity for another, the general mood in the Centre has been buoyant, as most colleagues were happy to discover within a new framework that there was an opportunity to be seized or a fresh start to be made.

Hence the renewal of the curriculum in all of the disciplines of the Centre, which has resulted in the replacement of rigid structures and the creation of new subject and course offerings which will improve the range of student choices in both the language and cultural studies areas—subjects include study of the Karna language, a summer school in archaeology

The News
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R&D award to visiting US scientist

Visiting American scientist Dr David Castillo has received good news from the United States—the research team he built back in the US has won an award for developing what is considered to be a major advance in technology.

—David Ellis

Local astronomer to head national body

The Astronomical Society of Australia has chosen Dr Roger Clay from the University of Adelaide's Department of Physics and Mathematical Physics to be its President for the next two years.

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DVC Seminars

The short-listed candidates for the positions of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) of the University of Adelaide will each present a seminar in early August.

German historian praises Australian example

One of the world's leading researchers of racial hatred says he doesn't believe racism to be a major problem in Australia.

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Email: aquinn@registry.adelaide.edu.au



Microbes offer 'glowing' solution to pollution

Cleaning up contaminated sites around Australia could become cheaper and easier thanks to new 'glowing' microbes that 'eat' pollution.



—David Ellis

Not everyone would choose to work during their summer holiday, but 20 Law students from the United States have done just that—they've taken four weeks out of their summer break to study here at the University of Adelaide.

Dr John Casley-Smith: a leader in lymphatic system research

Dr John R Casley-Smith died suddenly in Paris on 19 June this year while attending a scientific meeting. A memorial service was held at St Michael's Church, Mitcham, on 24 July.



Dr John Casley-Smith with Dr Judith Casley-Smith at an international congress dinner in Buenos Aires in October 1995. Photo courtesy of Dr Judith Casley-Smith.

Alf French, 1916-1997: expanding knowledge from ancient Athens to modern Prague

Alf French was born in Wolverhampton, England. When he graduated in Classics from Cambridge in 1938 he needed a job. He found one, at the British School in Prague, a city recently denuded of English-speakers as they fled fearing a German invasion. He knew no Czech, which made life difficult at times.

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