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Hugh Stretton on Don
Dunstan



THE STUDENT awarded the University of Adelaide's inaugural Andy Thomas scholarship, Justin Ghan, has come face-to-face with the astronaut himself.

Mr Ghan completed Year 12 at Pembroke High School and received perfect scores in all subjects. This year he begins his studies in Mechatronic Engineering.

The Andrew Thomas scholarship is named after the NASA astronaut, who graduated from the University of Adelaide in the 1970s with a degree in Mechanical Engineering before going on to do his PhD in Engineering.

Dr Thomas met Justin Ghan at a morning tea with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, last month.

Mr Ghan said he was excited to be awarded the scholarship, which would allow him to pursue his dream of studying engineering at the University of Adelaide.

Dr Thomas congratulated Justin on his success and said it was a "great compliment" to have a scholarship named after him.

Justin is one of many high-achieving South Australian students who have benefited from the University of Adelaide's new scholarships scheme.

The scheme has attracted outstanding international and interstate students, as well as encouraging many of South Australia's high-achieving Year 12 students to study here.

The success of the scholarships was one of several positive developments in student entry this year.

Despite concerns about the Asian economic crisis, the number of international students enrolling has increased to its highest level ever, with new international enrolments up by at least 12%. (See page 3).

Applications increased slightly and cut-off scores have remained high, with Engineering increasing its minimum from 89.8 to 92—the highest cut-off for Engineering in Australia.

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Celebrating 
125 years



Every reader has heard a dozen tributes to the life and work of Don Dunstan in the last ten days, most of them praising the extraordinary

5UV gets northern exposure

UNIVERSITY RADIO 5UV is receiving some well-deserved recognition abroad.

Since becoming the first radio station in Australia to broadcast live on the internet back in July 1995, 5UV has won itself a wide range of fans from all corners of the globe.

Station manager Dr Jeff Langdon has received about 100 emails from

The 1997 *University of Adelaide Directory of Environmental Research* revealed the great diversity of environmental research undertaken at the University of Adelaide. Currently, 31 Departments across the University are engaged in projects with the environment as the common theme.

Now, Dr David Walker from Civil & Environmental Engineering is organising a conference specifically designed for Adelaide postgraduates to promote collaboration between the many groups involved in the environment.

To be held in Adelaide in September this year, the conference will foster collaboration between students working in related areas, and also serve as an introduction to new postgraduate students working in the field, and assist in the development of paper preparation and presentation skills.

A call for papers is being sent to Departmental Postgraduate Coordinators, with abstracts due by 14 April, 1999. Further details can be obtained from Dr Walker <david.walker@adelaide.edu.au>.

Medicine—the times they are a'changing

The University of Adelaide's Medical School has welcomed its most diverse first year class in the school's long history.

Thanks mainly to changes in the entry process, introduced in 1997, the student profile of the school is undergoing huge changes. This year, 19% of students are from rural backgrounds—a massive increase over the 5% figure achieved in 1996.

The School also welcomes two new Aboriginal students, bringing the total Aboriginal enrolment in Medicine to 7.

Bonne and Vicki Jones (no relation) begin their medical studies this year after excellent results in Wilto Yerlo's Science Foundation Course in 1998.

Bonne has a long interest in health, starting with her paternal grandmother who was the custodian of traditional Aboriginal medical knowledge and passed much of it on to Bonne. She has worked as a natural therapist and hopes to work as a GP or psychiatrist in

remote areas, at least for part of her future career.

It was her grandmother who decided that Bonne should study medicine at University.

"She always believed that the more you open up to other cultures, the more likely you are to find answers to your questions," Bonne says.

She praises the quality of the Science Foundation Course, which takes students up to Year 12 level science. Although she did the course with the aim of gaining a place in Medicine, she was still shocked when she was told of her success.

"I was disbelieving, and now I'm just nervous," she says.

Vicki Jones, from Sydney, was attracted to the University because of the reputation of Wilto Yerlo's Foundation Science Course and the accommodation provided by Mattanya Housing Association, a University-affiliated housing project designed for Aboriginal students.

She has been focused on a career in medicine since she was 12 years old when her grandfather died.

"He had trouble accessing health care that was culturally appropriate for him," she says. "I saw really clearly the difficulties Aboriginal people had, and the difficulties the mainstream health people had as well."

She has worked in Aboriginal health in a community medical service and with the Commonwealth Department of Health, mainly in HIV and AIDS prevention programs.

"I have always been interested in medicine—I just didn't think I would ever get there. I had got to the level in Aboriginal health where I couldn't go any further," she says.

When she heard she'd been offered a place in Medicine, she immediately called her family.

"I just went wow. I was that happy. It's been a dream for me."

—David Washington



Bonne Jones—a long interest in health. Photo: David Washington

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Cut-offs also increased for Science, Computer Science, Mathematical Sciences and Design Studies.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, said the 1999 entry round contained several positive messages for the University and the State.

"The scholarships scheme has attracted national attention but, most importantly, it has also encouraged excellent students in South Australia, interstate and overseas to choose Adelaide as their place of study," she said.

"Our aim was to produce a net gain of outstanding students for the State as well as to develop a new culture, in which Adelaide is appreciated for what it is—a very attractive place to pursue higher education. At this stage, I can say that the scheme has been a great success."

The University awarded 167 undergraduate scholarships including three Premier's Scholarships, nine Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships (including

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Adelaide collaborative research helps rehabilitate Indian soils

SEVERELY degraded lands in the Indian subcontinent are to be rehabilitated as a result of an intensive training program held in India last month by researchers from the Waite Campus.

The program, undertaken by Dr P. Rengasamy from the CRC for Soil & Land Management, involved 40 postgraduate students in agronomy and soil science at Tamilnadu Agricultural University.

The students were shown how to use soil sodicity, acidity and salinity kits, which were developed by Dr Rengasamy, John Bourne and colleagues from five years of research in Australia.

These innovative kits are a cheap and practical way of diagnosing soil conditions, and they point users to the best methods of remediating the soil.

For last month's training program, the Adelaide team adapted their technology to suit Indian conditions and incorporated the Tamil language into the kits. This was assisted by Professor Singaram from the Tamilnadu State University who

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In Memoriam: Marie Robinson

AS A TRIBUTE to the late Marie Robinson, the University of Adelaide Library's Collection Development and Research Librarian, and in recognition of the professional and personal contributions she made to our Library, the Barr Smith Library is in the process of acquiring a number of works on the plant family bromeliads, which will be housed in Special Collections.

Donations towards this program from members of the University community will be welcomed.

Marie worked in the Library for almost forty years. She collaborated closely with her academic colleagues to build on the excellent teaching and research collections of the University Library and to develop new collections in support of academic initiatives.

Marie's interests were varied, but she was especially passionate about bromeliads and was an active member of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia.

The Library's impressive research collections stand as a very substantial monument to Marie Robinson's professional career; the Bromeliad Collection will remind us of her personal contributions to the well-being of the University of Adelaide Library.



—Ray Choate

Photo courtesy of Barr Smith Library

LEADING INTERNATIONAL financial journal *Fortune* magazine has named Dr Cheong Choong Kong as its Asian Businessman of the Year. *Fortune* says that in a year that will go down as one of the toughest for Asia in decades, Dr Cheong showed perseverance, savvy and the vision to do well while most othe

ALUMNI NEWS

PETER BALAN TO BE ACTING CHAIR

The Trustees of the Alumni Association have appointed the Pro Chair, Mr Peter Balan, to be Acting Chair of the Association following the decision by Dr Medlin to step down as Chair with effect from 31 December 1998. Peter Balan will continue as Acting Chair during 1999 while the Search Committee for a new Chair continues its work and until the University Council approves a recommendation from the Trustees for the appointment of a new Chair.

BOOKS IN MY LIFE

The former Official Secretary at Government House (1992-98), Mr Peter Bassett, will speak on the books that have influenced his life at the next in the Friends of the State Library "Wednesdays at One" series on 1 March.

Mr Bassett was involved with the Adelaide production of Wagner's *Ring* last year; a series of lectures he gave during the *Ring* has been published as *A Ring for the Millennium*. He is currently working with ArtsSA.

Institute Building, North Terrace, 1pm. Admission \$5 (\$3 concession, Friends of the State Library).

MEMORIAL SERVICE: ERIC RUDD

A memorial service for the late Professor Eric Rudd will be held on Monday 8 March 1999 at 2.30pm in Elder Hall. Speakers will be Stewart Greenhalgh, Douglas Mawson Professor and Head of Geology & Geophysics at the University, David J. McGarry AM, previously Managing Director of Australian Oil & Gas Corp Ltd and AOG Minerals, and Bruce Webb AM, Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. This Memorial Service has been arranged with the assistance of the Australian Mineral Foundation Inc.

An obituary for Professor Rudd will appear in the 8 March issue of the *Adelaidean*.

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Bulletin Board

1.00pm **Microbiology & Immunology Seminar:** Transgenic expression of the CD40 ligand enhances the Th1 immune response to respiratory

Applications for the following vacancies are not restricted to members of the University.

**FINANCE OFFICER
(RESEARCH GRANTS)**

(Ref: 8483)

Finance Branch

Salary HEO4: \$30,736 - \$33,808

Duties will involve assisting with financial control and recording of research grants, including the preparation of financial reports for granting bodies and liaison with all parties involved in the grants.

You should have:

- demonstrated attention to detail and accuracy with figures
- strong interpersonal skills
- demonstrated willingness to quickly learn new systems and procedures
- appreciation of computer based accounting systems.

This continuing position is available immediately on a 44.1 hours per fortnight basis.

Further information from Carolyn Gilmour, tel 8303 5052.

***APPLICATIONS** to Mrs M Cox, Acting Director Finance, University of Adelaide, Australia 5005, by 26 February 1999.

and will be required to interact with members on all sites and the second successful applicant will be located in the Department at the Lyell McEwin Health Service.

You should have:

- demonstrated typing, shorthand and dictaphone skills
- good communication skills
- demonstrated computer skills with Word (or similar word processing package), e-mail and Powerpoint.
- excellent organisational and operational skills.

Both continuing positions are available from 1 March 1999 on a 36.75 hours per fortnight basis.

Further information including the selection criteria

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

(two half-time positions)

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Women's and Children's Hospital
(Ref: 2471)

and

Lyell McEwin Health Service
(Ref: 3927)

Full-time Salary HEO4: \$30,737 - \$33,808

Duties will include personal, secretarial and administrative assistance to Head of Department, academic and other staff. The Department is located on several sites in the University and Hospitals in Adelaide. One successful applicant will be located in the Department at the Women's and Children's Hospital

New policy of four renewals per loan for Barr Smith Library

From March 1st 1999, all Barr Smith Library borrowers will be able to renew their loans up to four times per loan (for Normal loan, Main collection items), provided no other user has placed a hold on that item. This new policy replaces the existing renewal schedule that varied between borrower categories — now every borrower may renew a Normal loan from the Main collection up to four times. You can renew your own loans through the Library catalogue by using Option 14 - Borrower's details, the Self Service Loans machine, or alternatively by phoning the Loans desk on 8303 5759.

“This new policy is an exciting innovation for the Barr Smith Library, allowing greater flexibility to our users,” says Lending Services Librarian Robina Weir. “If a user requires an item that is on loan, they just need to place a Hold on it — that way it cannot be renewed, its loan period is reduced to

Research Grants & Fellowships

The following is a list of grant, fellowship and other research funding schemes currently available for application.

A more detailed electronic version of this listing (Update: Research), together with guidelines and application forms for some of the major schemes, ar