

Adelaidean

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News from the University of Adelaide

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OF ADELAIDE

EXERCISING at particular times in the menstrual cycle could help women to lose more weight.

That's one of the initial discoveries made by University of Adelaide PhD student Leanne Redman, who is studying the little-known impact of the menstrual cycle on women's exercise.

Her work has already yielded some significant results.

Ms Redman is currently seeking women between the ages of 18-30 to volunteer for the last phase of her study, which is being conducted in the University's departments of Physiology and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

COMMENT

THE UN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW AFTER SEPTEMBER 11

Dr Anthon Burke

Department of Politics

It was an American, Beardsley Ruml, who said in 1945: "At the end of five years you will consider the United Nations the greatest vision ever realised by man. At the end of 10 years you will find doubts within yourself and all through the world. At the end of 50 years you will believe the United Nations cannot succeed. It will only be when the United Nations is 100 years old that we will know that the UN is the only alternative to the demolition of the world."

The United Nations is 57 years old this year.

Adelaidean



Editor

David Ellis

Liaison

Ben Osborne
David Ellis

Writers

Ben Osborne
John Drislane
David Ellis

Contributors

Rosslyn Cox
Jean Matthews
Helen Simpson
Joan Soon
Lee Welch

Printed by

Cadillac Color

Advertising

External advertising is handled by KRL Media
Tel: +61 8 8231 5433
Fax: +61 8 8212 1238
Email: info.krl@katron.com.au

Coming Events

Please send all coming events to the editor at the address below. There is no charge for coming events, but they must be University related.

Deadline for next issue: Jul 25.

Room G07 Mitchell Building, South Australia, 5005.

Tel (08) 8303 5174; Fax (08) 8303 4838; Email: david.ellis@adelaide.edu.au

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THE community is being offered the chance to comment on proposed changes to the University of Adelaide Act.

In a media statement released last month, the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, said:

Law scholarship winner chooses career path in science, technology

A RAPIDLY growing area of law that is of major importance to the scientific community has been recognised in a scholarship from Norman Waterhouse,



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Why our weapons buying system needs a drastic overhaul

THE Australian Defence Force's system of buying weapons is inefficient and contributes to mistakes that can cost millions of dollars in taxpayers' money, according to a University of Adelaide academic.

In a newly published book, Dr John Bruni argues for an overhaul of the current defence procurement system and the establishment within the Defence Force of a permanent core group of professionals to manage the acquisition of aircraft, naval vessels and other military hardware.

"Because of the career path structure within the Defence Force, people spend only two or three years working in defence procurement before moving on," said Dr Bruni, a Visiting Research Fellow in the University's Centre for Asian Studies and defence analyst.

"A major defence procurement project usually lasts up to 10 years, but we do not have the same personnel staying with a project from start to finish. People are being cycled through the process too fast.

"We are not getting the professional corporate skills base we need in an area where more than two billion dollars of taxpayers' money is being spent each year," he said.

"When people know that they can stay for 10-15 years, until a project is completed, a clear line of accountability is established.

"The defence industry is having to retrain Defence Force personnel constantly to bring them up to speed with projects and industry developments, so a more streamlined approach would also encourage closer collaboration with industry."

Dr Bruni's book, *On Weapons Decisions: How Australia Chooses to Arm Itself (1963-96)*, was launched by the Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill, at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia last month.

In his book Dr Bruni identifies six key influences on Australia's weapons acquisition decisions: the political environment, the state of the domestic defence industry, the strategic environment, defence policy, the bureaucratic environment, and key technological events globally.

Dr Bruni said that controversy over the Collins Class submarines and, more recently, Seasprite helicopters had created public perceptions of "stuff-ups" in the defence acquisitions process.

"We have some very good people involved in procurement, but the problem is systemic," he said.

"It's also bipartisan, and has nothing to do with whether a Liberal or Labor government is in power.



Dr John Bruni (left) with the Defence Minister, Senator Robert Hill.

"The Collins Class submarine project was a good project in many ways. It employed many people and resulted in the completion of six submarines.

"The airframes of the Seasprite helicopters are 40 years old but that does not necessarily mean they will not be a viable concern.

"The problem is that when legitimate mistakes are made they can cost hundreds of millions of dollars to correct, and that

is a lot of money for a country with an economy the size of Australia's."

Senator Hill praised Dr Bruni for addressing these key issues in his book.

The launch was also attended by members of the defence industry.

On Weapons Decisions: How Australia Chooses to Arm Itself (1963-96) is published by Southern Highlands Publishers.

—John Drislane

International role for new VC



PROFESSOR James McWha, the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, has become Secretary General of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP).

Professor McWha was announced as Secretary General-elect three years ago and has now taken up the position formally at the recent IAUP triennial conference in Sydney.

The IAUP, founded in 1964 in Oxford, England, is an association of university chief executives from higher education institutions around the world.

Its primary aim is to strengthen the international mission and quality of education of universities, to promote global awareness and competence as well as peace and international understanding through education.

According to the association's website, the overall obligation for the IAUP is to involve its members in the world's crucial issues, "to reduce the economic and social differences

between countries as well as between people, to reduce inequality between races and between sexes, to improve competence and knowledge globally and in distinct parts of the world, to increase mutual understanding, tolerance and respect between peoples, and to create instruments and form attitudes that can reduce conflicts in the world and contribute to a more peaceful global society".

The association has around 600 members consisting of current or former leaders of institutions of higher education. There are 14 Australian universities listed on the association's membership database, although the University of Adelaide is not currently among them.

Professor McWha's role of Secretary General is one of three senior positions with the association, the others being the President and Treasurer.

Later this month Professor McWha will leave Massey University in New Zealand, where he has been Vice-Chancellor for six years, to become the University of Adelaide's 19th Vice-Chancellor.

Ecstasy

Debussy's famous quote "Ecstasy. Pleasure is the law" dominates the next concert in the ASO's Studio Series. It's all about suggestiveness, exoticism and ecstasy. This is music that is designed to take you out of the everyday and into your inner self. Toru Takemitsu's, beautiful and delicate music is very much in the spirit of Debussy and Ravel but goes further. Messiaen's famous L'Ascension is another brilliant example of music that reaches an almost spiritual plain. This is a concert of exceptional music made even better by the presence of French conductor Emmanuel Plasson. *After Debussy*. Granger Studio, 91 Hindley St, 8pm Saturday 10 August. Book at Bass on 131 24



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TWO University of Adelaide students took their place among the worldwide computing elite recently after they received scholarships to attend a major Apple conference in the US.

Rhys Hill (Computer Science) and Paul Jager (Computer Systems) were two of only 16 Australian students selected to attend Apple's weeklong Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC). The conference was held in the city of San José, California, in May.

The pair received their scholarships from the Apple University Consortium (AUC) in Australia by filling out a questionnaire about how they perceived their future in the computing industry. The AUC is funded from Apple sales in Australia and uses these funds to provide services to Australian Apple users.

The WWDC is Apple's major developer event of the year, with delegates learning about the latest Apple technologies and products directly from the company's software and hardware engineers.

The event boasts around 2500 attendees from all over the world, with around 300 of these being students.

The WWDC provides a forum for professional and academic programmers to meet Apple's engineering teams and learn about different technologies from their creators.

"It was thrilling to meet the people who are responsible for Apple's products," said Rhys. "It was a great learning experience."

He managed to make a worthwhile trip even more so by winning an Apple iBook as part of

THE FIRST 50 years of Economics at the University of Adelaide were far from uneventful.

The teaching of economics began at the turn of the 20th century, courtesy of the busy Sir

MONDA , J L 1

4pm Environmental Biolog Seminar:
"Macro to microscale regulation of food webs in large rivers" by Professor James Thorp (Kansas University). Benham Lecture Theatre, Benham Building.

H R DA , J L 4

1pm Chemical Patholog Seminar:
"Human Error and Error Analysis Techniques" by Dr Steve Keeley (Women's and Children's Hospital). Seminar Room 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Building.

4pm Applied and Molecular Ecolog Seminar:
"Increasing the effectiveness of biological control: monitoring insect movement" by Dr Nancy Schellhorn (PIRSA-SARDI Entomology). McLeod Theatre, Waite Campus.

FRIDA , J L 5

4pm Obstetrics and G naecolog Seminar:
"Afferent stimulation induced motor cortex reorganisation" by Dr Mike Ridding (Department of Physiology). Seminar Room, 6th Floor, Medical School North.

EDNE DA , J L 10

1pm Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development/Molecular Biosciences Special Seminar: "The Neto protein family of novel neuronal receptors: role in neurodevelopment and inherited epilepsy" by Professor Roderick McInnes (University of Toronto). Benham Lecture Theatre.

5.30pm Centre for Biomedical Engineering Seminar: "Flight Control Using Biologically Inspired Sensors" by Dr Javaan Chahl (WSD, DSTO). Hone Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Medical Building South.

H R DA , J L 11

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ISLAM has been in the spotlight since the terrorist attacks on September 11. Now a new course at the University of Adelaide aims to dispel some common myths about Islam.

"Questioning Western Perceptions of Islam" is being run in August as part of the Community Course Program offered by the Centre for Professional and Continuing Education.

The four-week course is presented by Dr Arthur Saniotis, an anthropologist with

ALUMNI NEWS

THE FIFTH international chapter of the University of Adelaide Alumni Association will be launched this month in Sarawak, Malaysia.

The new chapter is the Sarawak Alumni of the University of Adelaide.

Malaysian alumni now have access to two chapters, the other being the Adelaide University Alumni Malaysia Bhd, based in Kuala Lumpur.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, is hosting celebrations to mark the launch of the Sarawak chapter.

The celebrations will include a Launching Ceremony followed by a Fund Raising Dinner.

Invited guests include the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, members of the Malaysian Government and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

Alumni from all over the world are invited to join the festivities.

Damai Lagoon Holiday Inn in the city of Kuching, Sarawak will play host to the occasion on Saturday, July 13.

For further information or to register your interest in attending, please contact the Chapter's Honorary Secretary Mr Rodger Chan Siong Boh via email: sau@netinc.net.my

Chief Minister provides new scholarship

A scholarship has been established for

Malaysian students thanks to the generosity of the Chief Minister of Sarawak.

The Adelaide Sarawak Alumni Scholarship has been established in recognition of the Chief Minister's commitment to education and to the development of bilateral relations between Australia and Malaysia, for which he was formally recognised earlier this year by being awarded the title of Honorary Officer in the Order of Australia.

Having himself studied at the University of Adelaide as a Colombo Plan Scholar, the Chief Minister's commitment to the promotion of accessible quality education is exemplified through this scholarship.

The Board of the Alumni Association and the members present at last month's Alumni Association Annual General Meeting unanimously approved the establishment of the scholarship.

The first scholarship is expected to be offered at the end of this year, to be awarded to an international student commencing studies at the University of Adelaide in 2003, pending Council approval.

Scholarships for international students are unique in that all students are eligible and no application process is necessary.

Instead, eligibility is conditional only on acceptance to the University and students are selected on their academic merit alone.

For more information contact the Adelaide Graduate Centre on (618) 8303 3506.

Lawyer hits new heights with stage production

LAW graduate Rob Croser leads a dual life.

Croser, who graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1971, is one of the most experienced children's solicitors in Australia. He has spent 30 years at the Adelaide Children's (now Youth) Court as legal representative of children in child protection proceedings, and has advised government in South Australia and Tasmania on child protection legislation.

He is also widely respected as a theatre director and dramatist, founder and artistic director of Adelaide's leading pro-am theatre company, Independent Theatre.

Since its inception in 1983, under Croser's direction, Independent Theatre has produced three plays every year, including traditional and contemporary classics and many State, Australian and even world premieres, of international and Australian works.

Croser has also created his own stage adaptations, including Greek tragedy (*The Blood of Agamemnon*); Shakespeare (*Cry God for Harry!*) and the letters, papers and court transcripts relating to Oscar Wilde (*Judging Oscar*). Perhaps his greatest triumph to date was *East of Eden*, performed in 1998 at the Festival Centre (now the Dunstan) Playhouse, with the approval of the Steinbeck estate and Steinbeck's widow Elaine ("John would be pleased with the way you have dramatised *East of Eden*," she commented.)

A new stage dramatisation of the Emily Bronte classic *Wuthering Heights* is the latest step in Rob Croser's impressive dual career.

True to his love and respect for original texts, Croser's dramatisation encompasses the whole of *Wuthering Heights*. The best-known film

in the geographic and social isolation of the 19th century Yorkshire moors.

"In part, *Wuthering Heights* attracted me because its underlying themes of obsession and repression, vengeance and retribution are still so frighteningly relevant today.

"In my working life I see only too often the tragic legacy of oppression and cruelty," he said, "and around the world today we can see what happens when the desire to right wrongs turns into the need for revenge and retribution."

Croser has assembled an impressive cast to bring *Wuthering Heights* to the stage, including Independent Theatre ensemble members and current University of Adelaide undergraduates Joe Hynes and Lyn Wilson.

Joe is in his third year of a Bachelor of International Studies, while Lyn has deferred her Bachelor of Wine Marketing this year until her son finishes kindergarten. While she misses her studies, Lyn is keeping busy learning her lines for Ellen (M6h045(etr)-10.1(ibutio

version, with Lawrence Olivier, stopped short at Cathy's death, reducing the literary masterpiece to a gothic romance. In Croser's view, while the romance is central to the story and the characters, the death of the heroine is only the beginning of the real story.

"If you've only seen the film, you've only seen half the story," he said.

"And what a story it is! So much more than a gothic romance. The more I delve into the original text, the more I am dazzled by the profound truths of human psychology which are right there, in a book written 150 years ago

NEWSMAKERS