

Newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, believes the University of Adelaide can become a great international university within decades.

Professor O'Kane, whose appointment was approved by Council on 11 October, immediately articulated a bold vision of the University as an international leader in selected fields and a top performer in others.

She said the University of Adelaide — given the high quality of its students and staff and its status as one of the top universities in Australia — could become a university of global standing

On salaries

In her recent "Riding Change" talk, Professor Fay Gale said that she expected salaries in Australian universities to diverge significantly from now on. This prompts two observations:

— a university aspiring to maintain a position in the top group of universities will not be able to maintain its position if it pays relatively low salaries; it will need to pay relatively high salaries, commensurate with the position it aspires to maintain;

— if the university is relatively small and has already made significant cuts, it will need to finance increased salaries from increased income rather than from further cuts; being relatively small, it has little scope for further cuts before reaching the critical mass below which it must not fall.

Rex Hanney
Secretariat



The News IN BRIEF

BURDEKIN IN ADELAIDE

The special adviser to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Brian Burdekin, AO, will be the keynote speaker at a conference and public debate at the University of Adelaide on Monday, 28 October.

The 2nd annual conference of the Centre for Australian Studies will be held at Union Hall from 10.00am. The informal conference is titled "Are we to be a collective society?" and is aimed at encouraging debate about changes in our society.

Mr Burdekin was formerly the Human Rights Commissioner for Australia before taking up his new appointment with the United Nations. Other key speakers include Professors Hugh Stretton (Economics) and Doug McEachern (Politics).

For more information phone the Centre for Australian Studies, (08) 8303 5699.

RARE POEMS REPRINTED

A rare book of Australian poems first published in 1840 has now been reprinted by the Barr Smith Press of the University of Adelaide Library.

Poems and Recollections of the Past was written by Fidelia S. T. Hill, who travelled to South Australia aboard the HMS Buffalo with Governor Hindmarsh in 1836.

This was the first book of South Australian poetry to be published, and the first book of poems by a woman to be published in Australia. The works provide an insight into the early days of the colony and the life of a woman in the 19th century.

The reprinted edition of this rare collection is to be launched at 5.00pm on 30 October at the University of Adelaide's Barr Smith Library, Ira Raymond Room.

GIS HONOUR

Dr Stephen Kirkby from the Key Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems has been appointed as one of five members of a special committee of the International Geographic Union to set up an electronic database for the Union and a homepage on the World Wide Web.

"This is a highly important task and it is just recognition of Stephen's international status and high standing in the GIS area," said the Key Centre's Director, Professor Graeme Hugo.

"Stephen Kirkby is one of the University's outstanding young scholars," Professor Hugo said. "In his one year with the Key Centre, he has made a major contribution to its development. He has not only been highly successful in attracting substantial research funding but has been invited to contribute to several significant international conferences and had a number of papers accepted in international journals."

CELEBRATING BACH

The annual celebration of Johann Sebastian Bach by Elder Conservatorium staff and students begins on Tuesday 22 October and continues every weekday until Friday 1 November, with concerts in Elder Hall at 1.00pm for only \$2 (\$1 students).

Founded in the late 1970s by Beryl Kimber, the festival has become one of the Conservatorium's most popular events.

Highlights of this year's program include performances by the University of Adelaide Trombone Choir, Janis Laurs, Zdenek Bruderhans, the Elder Baroque Ensemble and Lance Dossor, as well as outstanding Conservatorium students.

Advertisement

The Adelaide Chamber Orchestra will premiere new works by University of Adelaide graduates John Polglase and Nigel Sabin at its New Perspectives concert in the Norwood Town Hall on Monday 21 October at 8.00pm.

John Polglase's *Rhapsody* features leading South Australian musicians Jacqueline Curiel (cello) and Suzanne Handel (harp), while baritone Douglas McNicol appears as the soloist in

Nigel Sabin's *Mystic Voyage*. Both composers studied under Richard Meale at the Elder Conservatorium.

Led by conductor Graham Abbott, the concert also features pianist Michael Kieran Harvey, who in 1993 was the first Australian to win the Ivo Pogorelich

Advertisement

From Page 1

"The University must harness its strengths to tackle the problems of re-conceptualising the role of a university and preparing for a more globally-oriented future," Professor O'Kane said.

"It has a unique opportunity which springs from its research intensity in a number of areas, its innovative teaching and the high quality of its staff and students.

"Flexible strategic planning and management and excellent communication are critical to our success.

"We must have a clear vision for ourselves to differentiate the University from other Australian universities.

"We must promote the belief that outstanding teaching depends on active scholarship; and we must remember that our chosen goals will not necessarily coincide with those of governments."

Announcing the appointment, the Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Mr Bill Scammell, said Professor O'Kane was the right person to lead the University through the challenging years ahead.

"Professor O'Kane has great energy and enthusiasm and I believe she will be an inspiring leader for the University," Mr Scammell said.

"Her vision for the University of Adelaide as an institution of international standing, and her strategy for achieving this goal, provide the University with a positive path into the next millennium.

"As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Adelaide, she carried out a major restructuring of research management and policy and subsequently the University's research earnings have increased

significantly.

"In her brief period as Acting Vice-Chancellor she has energised the creation of an external relations portfolio and has worked to strengthen the University's links nationally and internationally."

Professor O'Kane has been Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University since July and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) since 1994. She succeeds Professor Gavin Brown, who is now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

She is the first woman to be appointed to the Vice-Chancellorship in the University's 122-year history. At 41, she is one of the youngest (if not the youngest) Vice-Chancellors ever appointed in Australia.

Professor O'Kane is Chair of the Australian Research Council's Research Grants Committee and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

She sits on the boards of the MFP Development Corporation, the SA Museum and the Adelaide Partnership.

Born in Mount Morgan, Queensland, Professor O'Kane gained a Bachelor

Advertisement

Advertisement

Advertisement

Aboriginal students on unique outback trip

Ancient science came face-to-face with modern-day science when a group of University of Adelaide Aboriginal students and their supervisors recently embarked on a unique outback field trip.

The five students are all undertak-

Advertisement

Advertisement

As everyone is aware, Universities around Australia are currently developing strategies to deal with the five per cent cut in funding and consequent cut in student load announced in the Federal Budget.

The Senior Management Group has spent considerable time in developing options for the University of Adelaide, and the purpose of this letter is to outline to staff the principles of the University's strategy for the next three years.

Our response is based on the belief that the University of Adelaide must maintain and enhance its position as an internationally acclaimed, world class research University. I believe this is realistic and achievable, although the Government's budget measures will cause some pain, since, like other universities, we have already achieved significant efficiencies.

Several issues have influenced SMG's deliberations:

- Opportunities for our students to develop and grow in an atmosphere of academic excellence must be maintained and expanded.
- In dealing with budget cuts, we must not lose sight of our mission and strategic direction.
- To achieve our mission, we need to attract and retain staff of world standing. There is general acknowledgement that staff salaries must rise, and that the University must find additional funds itself for this purpose.
- The opportunity to take fee-paying Australian undergraduates, and the Government's wish that reduced load be absorbed by reduction in postgraduate coursework offerings, means that our course offerings must be of the highest quality and relevance to survive and prosper in the full-fee

environment.

The opportunity to recruit fee-paying Australian undergraduates will provide some offset for the funding cuts, and the University of Adelaide plans to offer such places from 1998. However, we believe that, to offer the best possible programs, the diversity of our current offerings requires reconsideration if we are to accommodate reasonable salary increases, cope with reduced Government funding AND maintain and enhance our strategic direction.

The Senior Management Group has, after extensive discussion and consideration, developed a program of limited restructuring to achieve the aims set out above. Each Division as well as central administration will be affected, and some staff positions — academic and general — will no longer be required. It is envisaged that up to 100 separation packages will be negotiated before the end of the year, and that some contract positions will not be renewed. The staff loss will represent approximately 4% of total staff numbers. Unions have been informed of the situation and further consultation is scheduled. The University will also provide specialist support and assistance for those who wish to seek new employment, receive retirement financial planning advice or take up consultancy or contract work.

I would now like to mention two particular areas where significant restructuring will take place — the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Performing Arts.

Following the 1994 Review of Humanities and Social Sciences, several Departments have already experienced amalgamations. Some further mergers and redistributions will take place for 1997. A merger of Women's Studies with

Anthropology, to form the Department of Anthropology and Gender Studies, is foreshadowed, along with a restructuring of Labour Studies, History and Politics into two groups. The Department of Education will be restructured with a view to meeting the demand for graduate teachers with special expertise in discipline areas, and with a strong focus on research. All current students will be able to complete the courses in which they are now enrolled.

Within the Faculty of Performing Arts, Drama offerings will be phased out, while Dance will be restructured. It is planned that a degree course option in dance will be articulated with TAFE diploma courses. The changes will not affect currently enrolled Drama or Dance students, who will complete their courses in the usual way. It should be noted that Drama will still be available in South Australia at Flinders University.

I want to assure you that these decisions have been taken only after exhaustive consideration of

Alumni
IN BRIEF

Education programs aimed at helping people learn more about small business management, entrepreneurship and innovation have been a huge success this year at the University of Adelaide.

That's according to the Industry-Linked Education Coordinator, Ms Joanne Pimlott, who runs the Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise and the New Venture Creation Workshop Series. She said one of the most vital components of both programs was the involvement of successful South Australian small business people.

Key speakers for the Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise have included Mr Duncan MacGillivray from Two Dogs Alcoholic Lemonade and Ms Mary Silins of Laserline Supplies. Some of the big names for the workshops have included Mr Brian Guthleben from RollerChair and Mr Ed McCaul of IT Services Group;

representatives from The Business Centre and the Institute of Export also participated. In all, more than a dozen small business owner/managers have contributed to the enterprise education programs this year.

"I'm extremely appreciative of the very significant efforts that all of these people and their respective organisations have made," Ms Pimlott said.

"They have given up their valuable time to talk about their experiences in small business, providing participants in both the graduate diploma and the workshop series with a wealth and range of business expertise."

The final workshop for 1996 in the New Venture Creation series was held last month. The workshop, "How to Manage a Small Business", was attended by about 40 people from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, including students, staff, graduates, and self-

employed people.

On Wednesday, 23 October, two more guest speakers will give talks as part of the Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise. Ms Maria Kourtesis, of Prime Placements Recruitment Agency, will discuss her own experiences as a business founder as well as issues relating to the recruitment, selection and management of staff; and Mr Con Michaliadis, from Australian Industry Consultants, will give a presentation on the "Commercialisation of Innovation".

—David Ellis

Anyone interested in either the Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise or the New Venture Creation Workshop Series (for next year) can contact Joanne Pimlott on (08) 8303 3476 or (08) 8303 4468.

ACCOMM: Exc opportunity for an enthusiastic student wishing to live in a small highly creative environment. Avail at competitive price with copier, fax, washing & tv facs, parking. Prefer applicant to have 1-2 years uni study experience & enjoy architecture & graphic design in the environment. 1-2 yr occupancy.