

Scan Optics to develop ENT microscope

A major grant to develop a new portable microscope for ear, nose and throat surgery has been awarded to a company based at the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Commerce and Research Precinct.

Scan Optics, best known for its ophthalmic (eye surgery) microscopes, which are used in more than 70 countries world wide because of their low cost, hardiness and reliability, has won a grant for more than \$200,000 from the Competitive Grants Committee of the Industry Research and Development Board.

The money will be used to help develop a similar line of microscopes for ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery, to be used in hospitals in Third World countries as well as in consulting rooms in developed countries.

ENT microscopes are technically more complicated than ophthalmic ones both in mechanical and optical design. The entire development project will take two years to complete, at a total cost of just over \$400,000.

The chief executive of Scan Optics, Dr Rod Watkins, said the new microscope would help improve health services in the Third World.

"There's an enormous need for an inexpensive, sturdy and reliable ENT microscope in Third World countries, just as



A Scan Optics microscope being used during eye surgery in an Indonesian hospital. Photo: courtesy of Scan Optics.

there has been in previous years for ophthalmic microscopes," Dr Watkins said.

"Our job, now that we've received the grant for this work, is to develop a portable ENT microscope that can be used in very remote locations in different climatic conditions, and which can be adaptable to different power sources, from mains power to a car battery.

"Thanks to the support of aid organisations we've had a great deal of success with our eye surgery microscopes and other equipment in the prevention of blindness and treatment of eye diseases throughout the Third World," he said.

"We're expecting more success with this new microscope, which will hopefully go a long way to helping treat people

with ear, nose and throat problems."

Dr Watkins said the latest venture by Scan Optics was a major achievement both for the company and for the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus, which has been its base for more than two years.

Scan Optics currently employs three graduates from the University and enjoys

close relations with a number of University departments and other companies based at Thebarton.

"The fact that there are departments and graduate students on the campus here, as well as companies, means that there's continual interaction — we've had a great deal of help in technical areas, computing, accounting, and a whole range of support areas," Dr Watkins said.

"I always say that Scan Optics is Australia's greatest connoisseur of science parks. We were located initially at Technology Park, then Science Park, and now Thebarton, so we've been associated with the University of South Australia, Flinders University, and now the University of Adelaide.

"Thebarton is so far in front of the other technology parks in Adelaide in terms of its interaction between companies and the University that there's simply nothing to discuss," he said.

Dr Watkins said work was already underway on the design of the new ENT microscope. He said it would be manufactured and assembled in Australia (with the exception of the optical components) and was expected to generate export sales of \$4 million within five years.

—David Ellis

Minimal course change following restructure

Changes to the University of Adelaide's 220-plus courses will be minimal and only one discipline area is to be phased out under the restructuring now taking place to enable the University to cope with a five percent Federal Government Budget cut.

True ambassadors

It was my pleasure and privilege to accompany the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of guest conductor Graham Abbott, on its recent country tour to Port Pirie, Renmark and Mount Gambier.

I can't speak highly enough of these young students. They performed magnificently in each of the centres with young Sally Cooper again displaying her amazing abili-

ty, performing the Mendelssohn Violin concerto with effortless beauty, accompanied by a polished and committed orchestra of whom Graham Abbott (and I) were indeed proud. They also performed the overture from *The Magic Flute* by Mozart and the Schumann 2nd Symphony, each work played professionally and beautifully.

The audiences in each of the centres were overwhelmingly appreciative and many compliments were extended to all of the players.

Personally, I was immensely

proud to be a part of such a wonderful endeavour and extend my congratulations to the true ambassadors of the Elder Conservatorium and the University — the students.

The tour was sponsored by the SA Country Arts Trust and the University Foundation to whom the Conservatorium is extremely grateful for the opportunity to undertake such a tour.

Helen Simpson
Administrator
Elder Conservatorium

New Adelaide scholarships for S-I-T twinning students

Outstanding students coming to the University of Adelaide in 1998 from its Malaysian twinning partner S-I-T (Sepang Institute of Technology) will be eligible to win one of a new series of scholarships announced recently.

The equivalent of six full-time tuition scholarships will be available to S-I-T students. The Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone, announced the establishment of the scholarships during a visit to the S-I-T campus at Port Klang on Saturday, 19 October.

S-I-T Director and CEO, Dr Paul Chan, welcomed Senator Vanstone, whose visit included a tour of the facilities, luncheon and some enthusiastic entertainment in the form of a Lion Dance and a choir provided by S-I-T students.

The new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, the Registrar and the University's Academic Director at S-I-T, Dr Tom



Professor Mary O'Kane and Senator Vanstone treated to a Lion Dance at Sepang Institute of Technology

Kurucsev, were among the official party — it was Professor O'Kane's first visit to S-I-T.

Professor O'Kane was in Kuala

Lumpur for the Malaysian Australian University Alumni Convention. [See a further report in Alumni News on page 7.]

WebGenie entrances the internet software market

Adelaide-based company WebGenie Software is casting a spell over internet users world wide.

After less than one year in business, WebGenie is rapidly becoming one of the world's leading internet software development companies.

The software tools designed by WebGenie enable internet users to add new dimensions to their own web sites, such as on-line surveys and guest-books, improved email systems, and (for marketing purposes) a program that gives you some details about who's visiting your web site, such as where they come from and which pages they visit.

WebGenie Software was founded by Dr Siva Prasad from the University of Adelaide's Department of Biochemistry in January 1996.

Since then, under the guidance of the University's commercial arm, Luminis, WebGenie's internet software tools have been "exported" on-line to computer users in more than 30 countries around the world.

Every week, more than 1000 PC users download software from WebGenie's internet web site.

Customers range from individual web users to major organisations, including General Electric Corporation, Lockheed, Compaq, SkyNet Asia, the US Department of Human Services and Health, US Army and US Air Force.

"WebGenie is proving itself to be yet another South Australian success story in the field of multimedia software," said Mr Tim Anderson, the business development manager of Luminis.

"As the company continues to grow and strengthens its place in the global internet software market, we can expect significant opportunities for University of Adelaide graduates and

South Australia as a whole.

"In less than a year the response to our software has been fantastic, as evidenced by the many awards we've received from the internet community," he said.

Mr Anderson said WebGenie's flagship product, CGI*Star, was selected by Microsoft as one of their recommended NT Webserver developers' tools.

"That's high praise indeed, from a company that's at the top of its class in computer software," he said.

For more information visit WebGenie's home page (<http://www.webgenie.com>) or phone Tim Anderson on (08) 8303 5020.

—David Ellis

Wind Ensemble première for CD

The Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble will present the world première of Australian composer David Stanhope's EGBDS on 8 November at 1.00pm in Elder Hall.

EGBDS (Edward Grieg by David Stanhope) was commissioned by Robert Hower and the Ensemble for the CD they are now recording. Entitled "The Little Ripper", the CD is the result of a quality audit grant from the University.

It will include all of the wind band works of David Stanhope, and will be released in December 1996 on the Tall Poppies label. The Ensemble's first CD was released in 1994.

The News IN BRIEF

PHYSICS WORKSHOP

Physicists from around the world have converged on the University of Adelaide for a workshop on theoretical physics.

The Topical Workshop on Neutrino Physics, at the University's Institute for Theoretical Physics, began on 31 October and runs until Wednesday, 6 November. Participants include experts from Japan, Italy, Switzerland and the United States, as well as Australia.

As part of the workshop Dr Boris Kayser, from the National Science Foundation in Washington, will give a public lecture on Monday, 4 November in the Flentje Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm.

For further details phone the Institute for Theoretical Physics: (08) 8303 3533.

PROJECT EXHIBITION

Mechanical Engineering students will put their inventive work on display for the University and the public on Friday and Saturday, 8-9 November.

This year's annual Project Exhibition showcases the best mechanical engineering projects by third and fourth-year students, and includes working displays as well as passive ones.

A rough-terrain wheelchair, motorised snowboard, orbital vehicle, laser scanning system and computer models are all features of the exhibition.

The display will be held in the Holden Laboratory, Engineering South Building, and goes on show at 11.00am on Friday, 8 November. Prizes for the best projects will be awarded at 4.30pm.

The exhibition, sponsored by Mobil Refining Pty Ltd and the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing, will continue until 1.00pm on Saturday, 9 November.

SCIENCE SCHOLARS SCHEME

School leavers who show excellence in Science will be rewarded and encouraged under a new program at the University of Adelaide.

The Science Scholars Scheme will provide students entering the University's Bachelor of Science course with extra educational opportunities, such as special projects, advanced studies and participation in research programs.

The emphasis of the scheme is on providing a greater depth and breadth of learning and a challenge for the very able student. In some cases there may be scope for accelerated progress through the course.

An initiative of the Faculty of Science, the program will also award eligible students a \$500 grant to cover study-related expenses during the first year of their Science Degree at the University.

Places in the Science Scholars Scheme are limited. To be eligible, school leavers must achieve scores of 19 or 20 in three relevant subjects (SACE, PES, or equivalent interstate or International Baccalaureate results). The closing date for applications is 10 January, 1997.

For more information about the Science Scholars Scheme, and for a copy of the selection guidelines, phone the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Science on (08) 8303 5673.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

THE ROBIN MEMORIAL LECTURE

will be given in Napier Theatre 102
Napier Building, North Terrace

by His Excellency Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO
Governor of South Australia

Title of address:

Engineering, at the Crossroads?

Monday 4 November 1996

5.30pm for 6pm sharp commencement of proceedings
Enquiries 8303 5135

Link projects build music profile

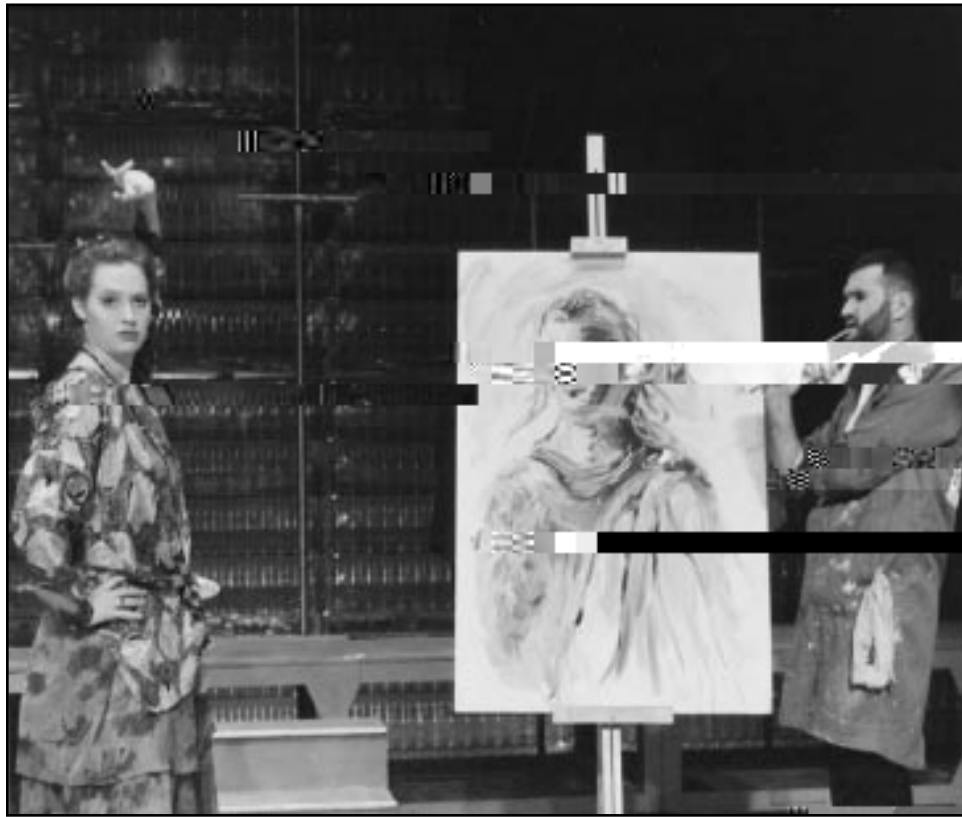
A specially built theatre made entirely of pillars of empty champagne bottles was the unique setting for *Alma*, an opera based on the life and many loves of Alma Mahler which was one of the attractions at this year's Barossa Music Festival.

Alma is one of two projects developed recently by Faculty of Performing Arts senior lecturer Grahame Dudley, and supported financially by the Barossa Festival, the State Department of the Arts, and the University's Quality Audit Fund.

The opera was composed by the Kidney Art Ensemble, which Grahame Dudley leads, and performed by a mix of academic staff, students and professional composer/performers from the Elder Conservatorium and the Department of Music Studies. Kidney Art Ensemble was also responsible for the musical score to the Adelaide Festival hit, *Excavations*, earlier this year.

Grahame Dudley's second project is entitled *New Works*; this will be performed in the Space Theatre at the Adelaide Festival Centre on 22/23 November. The program includes a new 'rap cantata' (*Fish Factory*) by masters degree student Padma Newsome, which has been composed for the combined talents of the Conservatorium chamber choir, Pro Canto, and the Elder New Music Ensemble.

The major work on the program will be Philip Glass's *Madrigal Opera*, which received its Australian premiere in the Madley Dance Space in August, under the direction of Grahame Dudley and Frank Ford.



A scene from *Alma*, with Catriona Barr as Alma and Nick Bishop playing painter Oskar Kokoschka. Photo: Oliver Dudley.

Audiences had to be turned away during the three-night season, hence the return season in the larger Space Theatre.

Grahame Dudley sees both *Alma* and *New Works* as "link projects", where University staff and students collaborate with professional bodies like the Barossa Festival to gain professional experience and contact for

students and to create a higher profile for the considerable body of new work being developed in music and music theatre at the University of Adelaide.

"My next project is to create a music theatre event around Sir Douglas Mawson, in association with the SA Museum and linking the sciences and the arts at Adelaide University," he said.

Boris, Bruce and the Water Suite

Also new this month is *Water Suite*, a composition by Elder Conservatorium masters student Jim McCarthy for two percussionists and an eight member chamber ensemble which will be premiered in Elder Hall on 25 November.

Featuring 85 percussion instruments and performed by Jim McCarthy and fellow masters student Kevin Tuck, *Water Suite* chronicles the journey of rain from its creation to the ocean in seven movements.

Jim McCarthy describes the work as a "cross-pollination of styles of music".

"It's essentially a theatrical piece, half rock concert and half serious recital, with a commercial edge," he said.

The recital will provide a rare opportunity to see and hear Boris and Bruce, two monster marimbas created by Jim McCarthy, which are reputed to be the world's lowest-pitched marimbas.

Joining Boris and Bruce and the usual percussion set-up of vibraphones, xylophones and drums are some more unusual items including fire extinguishers, car brake drums, circular saw blades and champagne glasses.

US honour to Adelaide weed scientist

Associate Professor Stephen Powles, Director of the CRC for Weed Management Systems at the University of Adelaide, has become the first Australian to win a coveted Honorary Member Award from the Weeds Science Society of America.

The award is made annually to only one individual from outside North America who has made a major contribution to weed science. It was announced at the recent GRDC Australian Weeds Conference in Melbourne.

Dr Powles said he believed his award was in recognition of the leading role Australian weed scientists

have taken in research into herbicide resistance.

"The CRC for Weed Management Systems in Adelaide has earned an international reputation for work in herbicide resistance," he said.

"Australia has one of the world's biggest resistance problems due primarily to ryegrass, which has the potential to develop multiple resistance to a number of herbicides if farmers and land managers do not correctly manage chemical use."

With weeds costing Australian producers an estimated \$3 billion per year, the work of the CRC has a direct

financial benefit to producers through the provision of state-of-the-art integrated weed management systems. These systems will effectively lower weed densities, decrease the use of control inputs and provide greater reliability of control procedures — resulting in enhanced competitiveness, higher grain quality and reduced environmental damage.

Dr Powles will travel to the United States early next year to be presented with his Honorary Member award in Orlando, Florida at the Weeds Science Society of America Annual Conference, where he will also deliver a lecture.

Koala fingerprints offer clue to evolution

New research at the University of Adelaide has uncovered an unusual link between humans and koalas — they both have fingerprints.

Although the existence of human-like fingerprints on the hands and feet of monkeys and apes (and a few other mammals) has been known for decades, this is the first time such skin patterns, known as dermatoglyphs, have been discovered on koalas.

The koala fingerprints were first noticed in February this year by the University's Wood Jones Professor of Anthropological and Comparative Anatomy, Professor Maciej Henneberg. He and his wife were touring the Urimbirra Wildlife Park near Victor Harbor, south of Adelaide.

"We looked at the koalas' behaviour in the trees and we realised that the way the koalas used their hands and grasped branches resembled that of

Supervisor of the Year

Dr Susan Carthew (pictured left) from the Department of Environmental Science and Management has received the 1996 "Supervisor of the Year Award" from the University of Adelaide's Postgraduate Students' Association.

The award allows postgraduate students to nominate their supervisors, publicly recognising and thanking them for their outstanding work and support.

Dr Carthew is a senior lecturer in ecology and conservation biology who supervises

Alumni IN BRIEF

Pioneering graduate dies

Dr Robert Klein, a pioneer in the development of artificial limbs, died recently at the age of 82.

Dr Klein graduated MBBS in the University of Adelaide in 1939 and worked at the Royal Adelaide Hospital as surgical registrar following service in World War II.

A specialist in rehabilitation medicine, he was a driving force in the growth of prosthetic science in Australia, introducing the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics to Australia in 1971, and later establishing the Lincoln School, now the National Centre for prosthetics and orthotics at LaTrobe University. Dr Klein was made an MBE in 1967.

Mutual Community

The special offer made by Mutual Community to alumni of the University earlier in the year has now been extended to members of the staff. A special mailing has been undertaken in the last week and if further information is required please contact Geoff Sauer at the Alumni Office. Please note that no names and addresses have been provided to Mutual Community for this mailing nor will they be in the future.

All revenue derived from the program is to be used for the benefit of the University.

Cornell AGM/Dinner

Members of the Cornell (Arts and Performing Arts) Chapter are reminded that the Chapter's Annual Dinner will be held at St Mark's College on Thursday 14 November, following the Annual General Meeting.

This year's guest speaker will be the acclaimed performer and director Robyn Archer, Director of the next Adelaide Festival.

The AGM will take place at 6.30pm, followed by the dinner at 7.00 for 7.30pm. Pre-dinner drinks provided; please bring your own table wines. \$35 per person. Bookings: telephone 8303 4275.

Science Chapter Lecture

On Friday 15 November, Associate Professor Victor Gostin will deliver the third Science Chapter Lecture for 1996. His topic will be "The Geology of Mars". Further details from the Alumni Office.

Malaysian Convention draws a broad cross-section together

The Chair of the Alumni Association, Harry Medlin and the Director, Alumni Relations attended the recent Malaysian Australian University Alumni Convention in Kuala Lumpur.

Patron of the Convention was Malaysia Australia Foundation Chairman, DPTSH Dr Abdul Taib Mahmud (LLB 61 DUniv 94) and Chair of the Convention Steering Committee was another Adelaide alumnus, Dato' Lee Yee Cheong (BE 61) who oversaw the coming to

fruition of an idea that came from a proposal he made in Adelaide in October 1995 during the Annual Meeting of the Australian University Alumni Council.

Keynote speakers at the Convention included Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir, Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer and Education Minister Amanda Vanstone (BA 81 LLB 83). Session leaders and panellists included a broad cross-section of

Malaysian and Australian educationists, business and government leaders.

It is highly likely a reciprocal Convention will be held in two or three years in Adelaide under the umbrella of a number of organisations.

The major political input to the Convention has been reported extensively in the media both in Australia and in Malaysia.

—Geoff Sauer

The Annual Dinner of Adelaide Alumni (Kuala Lumpur) Bhd was held in conjunction with the Convention; a record number of some 150 Adelaide alumni attended the function at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club.

Host for the evening was Chapter President Ir Chris Chong Chow Pang (BE 61) and he welcomed Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr Bill Farmer.

Newly elected Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane was warmly welcomed after her introduction by Dr Medlin and took the opportunity to speak with alumni about her vision for the future of the University.

Special guests were the Patron of the Malaysian Chapter, DPTSH Dr Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife Datuk Leila Taib. Dr Taib installed Datuk Dr Sam Abraham (MBBS 59) and Dato' Dr Gopal Sreenevasan (MBBS 52) as Honorary Fellows of the Chapter.

Judging by the level of animated conversation and laughter, and the number of our recently graduated alumni who attended, the dinner can only be categorised as an outstanding success.

ADELAIDE: SE corner - share accomm. Beautiful townhouse. \$87.50 pw + exp. Ph Richard 8232 2106.

ASCOT PARK: House to share. Furn rm (neg). Built in robe. Non smoker only. 2 o/seas students there at present. Clean quiet place. Happy household. \$50 pw + phone calls. Ph Ray 8276 1746.

BURNSIDE: Share house. 2 rms avail, fully furn. Close to public transport. Hosted many students before. Very comfortable home. Lovely area. Share exp. Pay own phone. \$60/\$70 pw + exp. Bond neg. Ph Mrs Brooks 8332 5126.

GOODWOOD: Share cottage. Mature reliable responsible student/staff. Prefer female, non-smoker. Close to public transport, shops. \$60 pw + gas, elect, phone. Bond neg. Ph Jane 8272 9936.

GOOLWA: Holiday house backs onto ocean beach, self-contained, 3 br house. Ph 8388 6404.

NORTH ADELAIDE: Share house with 4 others. Mega excellent lge old house. Groovy people. Close to everything. Washing mach, fridge, etc. Very recom-

mended. \$60 pw + bond \$120. Ph Hiram or Simon 8267 4320.

NORTON SUMMIT: Large 4 bed stone villa. Tranquil garden, bush, dam. 20 min from city. For rent for 12 mths from Jan '97. Furn avail. Ph 8390 1829.

STONYFELL: 3 br, full furn house in leafy, quiet street. Air cond, in-ground pool. Bus route to city nearby. Avail Mar & April '97. Longer rental neg. Has proven to be excellent accomm for visiting academics, on previous occasions. Ph Debra 8204 7619, or email agillesp@medicine.adelaide.edu.au.

ST PETERS: Person to share lovely Victorian villa, avail late Nov/early Dec. Close to Uni & all facs. Prefer mature female. Choice of 2 small rms \$80, or 1 large rm \$85 pw + exp. Ph Lan 8303 3106 or 8363 1999 (ah).

ST PETERS: Person to share huge house. 15 min walk or 5 min bike ride to Uni. 1 room avail now and another avail in Dec. Galaxy avail. \$60 pw + bond. Ph 8363 1867.

UNLEY: Share accom avail. Unfurnished room. Close to transport and shops. Ph Amy 8373 1301.

VIVONNE BAY, KI: Holiday

house. Beautiful beach, bush, wildlife, self-contained, architecturally-designed, sleeps 5. Ph 8388 6404.

WANTED: NZ family (former Waite Inst Staff) require house to rent from 2-12 Dec '96. Please ph 8332 5523 or 8303 7245.

