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# Adelaidean

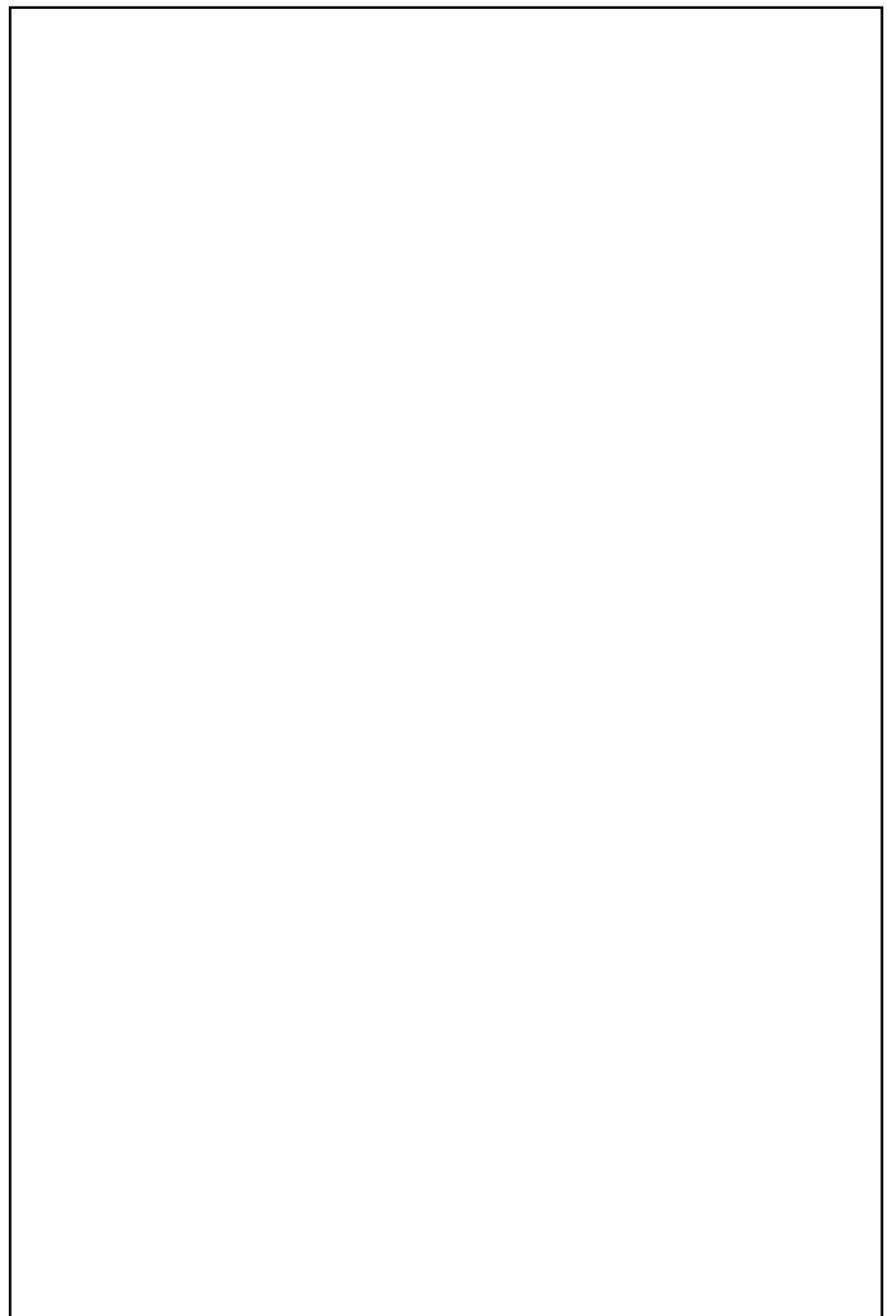
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Vol 6 No 5

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

APRIL 7, 1997

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## Adelaidean Feedback

The first Adelaidean Feedback Poll was an interesting exercise, with only six people taking the opportunity to express a view on the question of whether summer semesters should be introduced.

Of those, four were in favour and one against. The sixth leaned toward "No", with concerns about possible effects on students, but did not express an unequivocal negative.

Two of the six respondents were members of academic staff — one was for, one against — while the remainder were general staff (one of those being from another University).

### TWO COMMENTS:

**"I support a summer semester on the grounds that any increase in productivity and student numbers which brings in additional EFTSU's helps with the difficult budgetary situation and avoids staff retrenchments."**

**"Given the funding climate of the past decade, this is bound to increase the amount of work done by individual staff members, despite reassurances to the contrary. The early promises will soon be forgotten, and our valuable research time will be removed. PS. Feedback is a great idea."**

Despite the low initial response rate, the Feedback Poll will continue to be trialled. The next question will appear in the 21 April issue.

—John Edge  
Editor

# Substitute wine filter identified

University of Adelaide researchers have identified an easily-manufactured product capable of replacing expensive imported diatomaceous earth (DE) as a key filtering agent in the Australian wine industry.

A \$30,000 venture capital project run by Luminis Pty Ltd and overseen by Dr Ken Davey from Chemical Engineering's Food Technology Research Group, has established the substitute product — whose identity remains confidential for commercial reasons — filters faster and better than DE.

Industry partners in the exploratory project, which is just winding up, were Southcorp Wines Pty Ltd at Nuriootpa and the Melbourne and Sydney-based Quality Sands and Ceramics Pty Ltd.

The research brought together strands of consultancy work which Dr Davey did in 1995 for Quality Sands and Ceramics to find applications for their products, as well as recent collaborative Honours projects with both companies.

Diatomaceous earth is a silica-based aid to filtration which has long been used in the "polishing", or final filter step of wines — as well as in the clarification of beers.

Essentially, it works as a filter cake through which the wine is forced at pressure to remove particulates.

Dr Davey and his team — including University of Adelaide Honours graduate Jason Pecanek and Jamal Kadir, a chemical engineering graduate from Loughborough University in the UK — built a stainless-steel pres-



L to R: Jason Pecanek, Jamal Kadir and Ken Davey with testing equipment. Photo courtesy of Dr Davey.

sure vessel which enabled them to simulate at bench-scale process conditions used in the wine industry at Nuriootpa.

Working with white wine, they compared the performance characteristics of several possible substitute filter media against DE as a control.

"One of the substitutes gives comparative technical performance with practical realisation of greater flux," Dr Davey said. "In fact, the flux is statistically significantly greater than DE in our bench-scale processing." [Flux — the quantity per unit area per unit time — is a measure of filter performance.]

Dr Davey believes the results of his

tests are sufficiently strong to stimulate financial backing for a much larger-scale pilot project.

The commercial opportunities for South Australia's internationally expanding wine industry from the development of an effective and cheaply produced local substitute for DE are clear.

DE is currently imported from the United States, with demand Australia-wide at around 12,000 tonnes per year — South Australia accounts for 1,500 tonnes — at a cost of just over \$1100 per tonne. World-wide demand is many times that figure.

—John Edge

## Start to Lower Level work gets nearer

The first physical work on the Lower Level Site Development is getting underway this month with contracts being let for alterations in the Jordan and Fisher Buildings. These spaces will be used as temporary accommodation until the New Science Building is complete.

Project Manager John Larwood says that contract documentation is also underway for the Fisher Stage 1 demolition (scheduled for July this year), the modifications to Union Hall and construction of a new floor on the Chemical Engineering Annex.

Mr Larwood said the Project Team has finalised the design briefs for the two Divisions involved (Science and Engineering and Mathematical Sciences), and has balanced preliminary cost estimates with the funds available.

"After several cost cutting exercises we have a balanced budget and are moving forward," John Larwood said.

One of the major changes during this process has been the deletion of the proposed underground Stage 1 Engineering/Maths Building.

The Division is now moving to

occupy space in the Plaza Building vacated by ITD and Property Services.

Project architects MGT/Hardy have now presented preliminary sketch plans for the proposed New Science Building and the refurbished Benham Laboratories.

John Larwood and Rob Hutson invite anybody interested in the Lower Level Site Development to pop into the Project Office on the Maths Lawns to view these plans or for a chat.

—John Edge

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# Lastek aims for the export market

A new line of spectroscopic instruments and computer software is to be unleashed on the world market by Lastek, one of many innovative companies based at the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus.

Lastek is an importer, distributor and servicer of scientific instruments, such as spectrometers and high-power laser systems, which are used in research by universities and companies throughout Australia.

Almost a quarter of its business also involves system integration and the custom manufacture of new instruments to cater for specific researchers' needs, as well as developing computer software that can be used with this high-technology equipment.

After years of building one-off, custom-made spectroscopic systems, Lastek has now designed and .

## Videos spread news of menopause research

Associate Professor Alastair MacLennan (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) and Dr Alice MacLennan have added another educational video to their series on the menopause.

The video is a précis of the most recent International Menopause Society Congress and encapsulates over 60 messages from the congress in as many minutes through short interviews with the main international speakers.

The newest video covers topics such as oestrogens and brain function, cardiovascular disease, new therapies for osteoporosis, the politics of the menopause, menopause in other cultures and even the male "menopause".

Three previous videos have refined the team's technique of summarising a conference and quickly spreading the news of recent advances through live abstracts and pertinent questions, and their videos circulate world-wide.

The team has also produced two educational "hypotheticals" — "HRT after breast cancer" and "The Politics of female health: Women and Cardiovascular Disease".

These are available through Foundation Studios at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide (tel 8204 7339).

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# Students well received at perinatal conference

Five Masters and Honours students in the Department of Public Health presented papers on aspects of perinatal medicine at the recent Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Congress in Fremantle.

Dr Janet Hiller, senior lecturer in the Department, said having five student papers accepted at such a conference, which attracts leading scientists, obstetricians, midwives and others involved in perinatal care, was an outstanding achievement.

Masters student Jan Carter's

paper, which found a slightly increased risk of premature birth among older mothers, was selected for presentation at a plenary session of the conference.

Others included:

- **Kerri Beckmann** (Masters), reasons for mid trimester abortions
- **Bo Zhang** (Masters), asthma as an increasingly common pregnancy complication
- **Elizabeth Griffith** (Masters), insufficient calcium intakes for pregnant women in South Australia

• **Donna Sharp** (Honours), women's satisfaction with medical and other services during pregnancy, at birth and afterwards.

The Department of Public health accepts about 20 Masters students and a small number of Honours students each year.

Dr Hiller said whilst finding funds for student conference visits was always difficult, students benefited considerably both academically and in career development.

—Patricia Cree

*Advertisement*

# Forum on Career Paths

Three leading Adelaide personnel consultants provided an up-to-the-minute snapshot of jobs, career development and further study options to some 50 University of Adelaide general staff at a Women's Professional Development Network lunchtime forum last Tuesday.

Michael McGregor of McGregor Price Consulting Group, Sue-Louise Newmann, a former personnel consultant and now Human Resources Manager with North West Water, and Trevor Searle, manager of Drake Executive, presented their perspectives on careers in South Australia, and then fielded numerous questions from the audience.

Issues included the benefits of further study and how to choose the

most useful options, whether age is a barrier to employment, job-hunting strategies, and the similarities and differences between public and private sector employment practices.

The WPDN's role is to foster an environment in the University where women general staff can achieve their personal and professional potential.

Future lunchtime forums, as well as other activities, are scheduled for later in the year. Contact convener Kathie Hurst, ext 33277, to be added to the mailing list, or check the electronic Bulletin Board. Participation is open to all women general staff.

—Patricia Cree

The Elder Conservatorium has chosen the opening concert in its 1997 Elder Hall series to mark the centenary of the death of one of the University's great benefactors — Sir Thomas Elder, after whom Elder Hall is named.

The six-concert series has a distinct local flavour, focusing on South Australians and highlighting the excellent staff musicians at the Elder Conservatorium.

The opening concert will give South Australians their first opportunity to hear violinist Dr Semyon Kobets, who has left his posts as Concertmaster with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestras and part-time lecturer at the Sydey Conservatorium to join the University of Adelaide as Senior Lecturer in Violin.

Dr Kobets will be joined in his program of Beethoven, Brahms and Franck by pianist David Lockett. Associate Professor Lockett has just returned from a recital, masterclass and lecture tour of Canada and Taiwan.

Semyon Kobets's career has taken him throughout Europe, the USA, New Zealand and Australia. He was co-founder, Music Director and First Violinist of the Leontovych String Quartet in Kiev from 1971-1992, and has won numerous music awards.

Dr Kobets describes the concert as "the first page of the new and exciting chapter in my life book."



The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mary O'Kane), the Head of PALACE (Professor Judith Brine), and the Registrar (Mr Frank O'Neill) joined Performing Arts staff and students in the Wills Court garden on 20 March for the launch of "Little Ripper", the Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble's CD of music by the eminent Australian composer David Stanhope, who came to Adelaide from interstate for the occasion.

Pictured (left to right) are Dr Anita Donaldson, Dean of Performing Arts, Mr Robert Hower, leader and conductor of the Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble, and David Stanhope. Photo: Steve Donovan.

*Continued from Page 1*

Thanks to a portable rig built especially for this research, "Oscar" has been used for tests in the laboratory and in the field at various playgrounds around Adelaide.

Although the Department of Mechanical Engineering has undertaken research into this area for the past 10 years, it was not until September last year that the first Australian and New Zealand Standard covering the testing of soft fall materials was released.

"It's estimated that if the standard is widely and effectively implemented, the number and, more importantly, the severity of injuries could be cut by half," said Mr Brown.

"The difficulty is getting the message out into the community that by

simply using suitable soft fall materials which comply to the standards, it could mean the difference between a minor fall and a serious head injury requiring hospitalisation.

"I would urge all organisations responsible for playgrounds — such as schools, day care centres, kindergartens, councils and restaurants — to make sure soft surfacing is in place around their play equipment," he said.

"Parents should also be aware that serious accidents occur around play equipment at home, and therefore the extra safety net, in the form of soft fall material, should be installed."

Because of the Department of Mechanical Engineering's expertise in this field, companies from Queensland, New South Wales,

Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand have been keen to have their soft fall products examined by MechTest.

The South Australian Health Commission and local manufacturers are also eager to collaborate with MechTest.

Mr Brown said that this study was an excellent example of how

## Alumni IN BRIEF

### Arts/Performing Arts Prizegiving

The Cornell Chapter is joining forces with the Faculties of Arts and Performing Arts to host a Prize Giving ceremony on Thursday 24 April.

Students who were awarded prizes in those Faculties last year will be invited, along with their families and friends.

### Law graduates' celebration

The John Bray Law Chapter invites all new graduates admitted to Law degrees at this year's Commemorations to join them at a Reception in the University of Adelaide Club, on Wednesday 30 April at 4:30pm.

The Hon Mr Len King, the Chair of the John Bray Law Chapter, and members of the Chapter Committee will be present to welcome the new graduates.

### A Portrait of John Bray

The John Bray Law Chapter of the Alumni Association together with the University Foundation and the Libraries Board of South Australia has published a volume of essays commemorating the life and work of the late Dr John Bray — poet, jurist, scholar, former Chief Justice of South Australia and Chancellor of the University.

The book is available from the Alumni Office at A\$55.00 (hardback) and A\$32.00 (paperback). Prices include postage. Bankcard, Visa and Mastercard accepted. To order call 61 8 or 08 8303 5800 or fax 8303 5808.

### Alumni Ties

Alumni Ties are available from the Alumni Office. In navy, with a single coat of arms flanked by burgundy stripes, the ties are A\$20.00+\$3.00p&h. Order as for John Bray book above.

### Activities Program

The Association has arranged another interesting and different activities program for 1997 including a visit to the Courts Authority of South Australia, Traditional Music of Japan and a visit to Ngapartji Cooperative Centre. Details available from the Alumni Office on 08 8303 4275.

### Nobel Laureate Lecture

1996 Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty will give a University of Adelaide Foundation Lecture on Friday 18 April 1997 in the Bonython Hall at 6.00pm. The title of the Lecture is "Dealing with Viruses".

There will be no charge for admission but an entry ticket will be required. Call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 for your ticket.

### Singapore AGM and KL dinner

The Adelaide Chapter of Australian Alumni Singapore is holding its AGM on Thursday 22 May next at the Medical Alumni Centre in Singapore.

The AGM will be followed by a buffet dinner and a talk by Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane.

Adelaide Alumni (Malaysia) Bhd is holding a dinner in Kuala Lumpur immediately after the University's Graduation Celebration on Sunday 25 May at the Hotel Istana.

For details about both functions call Geoff Sauer on 61 8 8303 4277.

# Alumni reception in Melbourne

The Alumni Association held a Reception for graduates and friends living in Victoria on Tuesday 25 March at the All Seasons Premier Hotel, Melbourne. Some 85 alumni attended.

The guest speaker was the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, who spoke about the University's innovations in teaching and research which are enabling the University to participate in a much wider field across Australia and internationally.

The alumni who were present represented the full range of Faculties and ranged in age from graduates of the early 1930s to young alumni who completed their studies last year. The Vice-Chancellor remarked that the breadth of experience and knowledge represented by the alumni at the Reception was quite extraordinary.

A Melbourne Chapter will be formed to strengthen the Association's ties with alumni living in Victoria. This group will be able to assist in organising an annual Alumni Reception and other events of benefit to the University and its alumni.

## Economics and Commerce to launch new Chapter

The Alumni Association is establishing an Economics and Commerce Chapter.

The aim of the new Chapter is to foster relationships between the Economics and Commerce faculty, staff, undergraduates, past students and the business community.

The Alumni Association would be pleased to hear from those interested in participating in the Economics and Commerce Chapter.

You can contact Adrienne

Eccles at the Alumni Office on 8303 3196 or Christine Evans on 8300 6726.

Alternatively, the Alumni Association is participating in the Economics and Commerce Faculty prize-giving dinner on Monday 28 April 1997.

If you would like to attend, please contact Helen Pountney on 8303 4497, and register your interest in the Chapter at the same time.

—Christine Evans  
Economics Trustee



Some of the Adelaide alumni at the Melbourne reception on 25 March. Photo: Adrienne Eccles

Readers living in Victoria who would like to know more about this can contact Adrienne Eccles at the Alumni Office: phone 08 8303 3196, email <aeccles@registry.adelaide.edu.au>; or our contact in Melbourne, Mel Yuan (BEc 92):

phone 9347 3705 (h), email <myuan@looksmart.com>. Mel Yuan is a former President of the Union Board and former member of the Alumni Association's Executive Board.

—Adrienne Eccles

## Science Sunday at Waite

The Alumni Association will visit Waite Campus for a guided tour of the Science Museum that has been established in restored Urrbrae house outbuildings.

View the Mawson Collection and Frank Hurley's photography. See a reconstruction of the old Waite laboratories and the Florey Collection set up by the Florey Medical Chapter to commemorate Adelaide's Nobel Laureate.

Bring a picnic basket and have lunch in the Urrbrae House gardens, then treat yourself to a walk through the rose garden and Arboretum.

Sunday 4 May, 11:00am. Please call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 to make a booking. Individual, family and small group bookings all welcome.

## Singapore Afternoon Tea

The Adelaide Chapter of Australian Alumni Singapore held a most successful Afternoon Tea on 29 March at the Medical Alumni Centre in Singapore. Some 60 alumni including a few from Flinders and the University of South Australia attended.

It was very pleasing that many of our younger Singaporean alumni attended. Special thanks are due to Victor Lye, Richard Yung and especially "PK" Yap for their hard work which made the afternoon tea a success.

## Sarawak Alumni

Rodger Chan (BArch 86) has advised that the Sarawak Adelaide University Alumni is hosting a function in Kuching on Tuesday 20 May next, particularly to welcome Australia's new High Commissioner to Malaysia. Further details available from the Alumni Office.

—Geoff Sauer



## Lucky Draw Winner receives tickets

Richard Feasey from Property Services, winner of the lucky draw associated with the Mutual Community promotion, was presented recently with his tickets for a trip to England. The prize was made available by Lifeplan Travel. Richard is pictured (centre) with left Joseph Toleman (Manager, Lifeplan Travel) and right Bill Hovey (State Sales Manager, Mutual Community).

**BELAIR:** House (with cat) in Belair avail from mid June to end Sept 1997. Fully furn, next to train and bus services. Reasonable rent. Ph Miles 8278 6953.

**GILBERTON:** 2 br town-house in beautiful garden setting with carport umr.