

The Vice-Chancellor on The Getting of Wisdom

# Approved For Print Post 565001/00046



In January this year, two student jazz ensembles from the Elder Conservatorium—The Adelaide Connection and Ensemble 3.1 performed at a major international jazz education conference in New York. Ensemble directors Connaitre Miller and Dustan Cox write about the trip.

#### THE ADELAIDE CONNECTION

The 1998 school year has indeed started out with a Bang! After only two rehearsals I can say with great enthusiasm that this year's Adelaide Connection looks like it will be the best one yet! One of the main reasons for our fantastic beginning is the concentration of positive vibes radiating from those members of the group who have recently returned from a highly successful tour to the USA.

In July of 1997, the Adelaide Connection received an invitation to perform at the 25th anniversary of the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference in New York City in January 1998. After several month of fundraising, gruelling (nevertheless fun) rehearsals, extra concerts (necessary for honing performance skills) and intensive planning, we finally found ourselves air-bound for the Big Apple.

The conference was an incredible event with an impact that's difficult to put into words. There were over 8,000 jazz musicians, enthusiasts, educators and promoters from all over the world, all within one hotel, the Mariott Marquis, in the heart of Times Square. The atmosphere buzzed with an understated kind of excitement as students and amateur musicians rubbed shoulders with those who had previously only been names on recording labels. There were locals performing at jazz clubs throughout Manhattan every night until the wee hours of the morning and plenty of workshops and concerts to attend during the day and early evening at the Conference. We fought the jet lag so that we wouldn't miss out on a moment.

Our concert took place on Friday 9 January in the Marquis Ballroom. The fact that we were finally in New York at the IAJE Conference, about to give the performance that we had worked on for months, was plenty of incentive for the students of The Adelaide Connection to do their absolute best. But to add fuel to the fire, the audience was like none we'd ever experienced before as a group. The people who filled the ballroom had definitely come to be entertained by "The Aussies". Usually, when our choir performs, the atmosphere is a little more formal; but right from the first phrase of "Sometimes of Happy", members of the audience began to react verbally, laughing in all of the right places at the quirky lyrics. This sort of immediate feedback spurred the choir on to give even more and they sang their hearts out. With each selection that was presented the applause continued to grow and grow. Just before we performed our last piece, the

presiding officer presented us with a plaque for "Outstanding Service to Jazz Education" and remarked to the audience that, "Vocal jazz was indeed alive and well and living a fine life in Adelaide, South Australia". After we had sung our finale, "Waltzing Matilda", I thought we would all burst with happiness as the audience instantly responded by giving us a rousing standing ovation.

Following the concert many people hung around to speak with us personally, telling us again and again how much they enjoyed our performance. My very favourite comment, which came from a solo jazz singer, was, "I just couldn't believe it! I mean, here were these

... *kids*, from ... *Australia*, and they were singing jazz like they'd been doing it their whole lives; like they had grown up with it all around them. The way that they swing ... absolutely amazing!"

We floated through the rest of the conference, attending as many workshops and performances as possible, and learning a great deal. We kept bumping into people who commented on our performance with some who stopped us to just say how sorry they were that they had missed our concert because great things were being said about The Adelaide Connection. What an incredible experience for our students!

-Connaitre Miller, Jazz Voice

#### **ENSEMBLE 3.1**

The University of Adelaide's Small Jazz Ensemble 3.1, under my direction, has recently returned from a successful performance at the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference in New York. Ensemble 3.1 was the first Australian group to perform at this prestigious event in New York City, universally recognised as the jazz capital of the world. Thousands of jazz performers make their homes in New York, because of direct links to recording companies, jazz clubs and other performance venues. This resulted in a greater opportunity to hear jazz performances, not only in the convention centre, but also in various venues in the immediate vicinity. Educational workshops, clinics and equipment displays including music technology in the classroom were available for participation by those in attendance. There were literally hundreds of areas to choose from in the four days, from 9am to 2am, and the most difficult daily decision was determining how to plan your day.

Continued Page 6



FOUR STUDENTS from the University of Leeds will arrive in Adelaide mid-year to spend a year in the Geography Department following the establishment of a formal link between the department and the School of Geography at Leeds.

The link developed from a visit in late 1996 by Professor Philip Rees from the University of Leeds, which was funded through the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program in the Faculty of Arts.

The agreement, which provides for the exchange of students and for research collaboration between the two departments, was signed by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane last month.

Each year the departments will exchange up to four full time undergraduate or postgraduate students for one academic year of study and/or research at the host university.

The exchange program is already proving very popular, with the four Leeds students due in Adelaide for second semester, and the Study Abroad

# Landscape students study Loxton environment

SUSTAINABILITY is a growing concern in the community. So is finding ways to identify options to better reach sustainability objectives in our economic, developmental, and servicing actions and policies.

Local councils in South Australia, as a consequence of the Earth Summit Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, are obligated to prepare a Local Agenda 21 strategy. The strategy needs to be incorporated into local council management and decisions making processes and policies and filter outwards into community activities and processes.

As part of their investigation into sustainability a group of landscape architecture students from the University of Adelaide are presently reviewing the Riverland town of Loxton.

The students, with the full support of the Loxton Waikerie District Council and Local Action Planning Ofg wi ndndn



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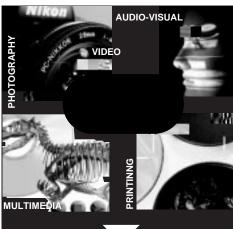
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# ALUMNI NEWS

#### DR PHILIP NITSCHKE ADDRESSES PUBLIC MEETING

Dr Philip Nitschke, BSc Hons, PhD (Physics), MBBS, gave a public lecture on Voluntary Euthanasia in the Florey Lecture Theatre on Thursday 2 April.

The lecture, which was sponsored by the Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter of the Alumni Association, was attended by some 200 people. Dr Harry Medlin chaired the evening.

Dr Nitschke spoke of the background to the Northern Territory experience and the several successes before the Northern Territory's Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995 was quashed by the Federal Parliament. He spoke also of the cross-political and cross-religious issues raised. There was vigorous but in the main restrained debate.

The meeting thanked the members of the Chapter Committee, in particular Mr Dean Dowling, and Alumni Activities Coordinator Adrienne Eccles for their work in mounting the lecture.

A vote of thanks was moved by the Honourable Anne Levy who, amongst other things, while thanking Dr Nitschke said that her bill in the SA Legislative Council had been passed by 13 votes to 8 before it was overtaken by the last state election and therefore had lapsed.

#### **EVENING OF VICTORIANA**

The Cornell Chapter invites all enthusiasts of the Victorian era to join them in the splendid nineteenth century ambience of Ayers House on Tuesday 26 May.

Enjoy a three course meal with wines, Victorian drawing room music for voice, flute and piano, and an address on the architecture of nineteenth century Adelaide by distinguished architectural historian Brian Andrews. Commences 7:30pm. \$50 per person. Period dress may be worn.

Bookings: Ms Kinga Gasiorowski, Alumni House, University of Adelaide; tel 8303 4275. The Alumni Office accepts cash, cheques or Visa Card/ Mastercard/Bankcard.

# GUIDED TOUR OF MAGISTRATES' COUR

### INTERNATIONAL LINKS ON CAMPUS

# Dual graduand is a 'fine example'

**INTERNATIONAL LINKS will** play a major role in this month's commemoration ceremony for the Faculty of Dentistry.

Dentistry often has a high intake of international students—in fact, its overseas undergraduate intake is more than half of the total number of overseas dentistry undergraduates in Australia.

One of the overseas students graduating this year is Dr Nita Pai from Manipal in India, who will receive not one but two degrees.

Dr Pai hails from a very unique family in Manipal. Her grandfather established the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, a highly respected private university.

Nita's father and uncle both play key roles in the administration of the Manipal Academy, which last year signed an exchange agreement with the University of Adelaide.

Dr Pai came to Adelaide to study for a Master of Dental Surgery degree specialising in paediatric dentistry. Despite already having an undergraduate qualification



Nita Pai-two degrees

from India, she decided that she would also like a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Adelaide, which would allow her to practise dentistry in Australia.

She undertook a two-year Bachelor program while completing her Masters, and is currently working with the SA Dental Service in Mount Gambier.

The Dean of Dentistry, Dr Viv Burgess, said Dr Pai was a fine example of the international talent and expertise which was attracted to the University of Adelaide.

"Students such as Nita are

crucial to our future. Cultural diversity, diversity in research, and the economic benefits that come from overseas students-these are all vital, not just to the Faculty of Dentistry but to the State as a whole," Dr Burgess said.

Dr Burgess said he believed it was important for all students to be able to attend their commemoration ceremonies because it represented the valuable relationship between their education and their role in the wider community.

"The ceremony not only allows students to be reunited with their classmates, it allows them to realise the importance of their education and the whole university experience.

"It is particularly important for those overseas students who can attend the ceremony to do so, because it enables them to reflect on their time here at the University of Adelaide and imbeds in them a sense of achievement which they will never forget," Dr Burgess said.

-David Ellis



THE PHILIPPINES AMBASSADOR to Australia, HE Mrs Delia Domingo-Albert, visited the University last month at the invitation of the Centre for Intercultural Studies and Multicultural Education (CISME).

The Ambassador addressed a large CISME gathering in the Council Room on "The Centenary of Philippine Independence and Philippine-Australia Relations".

CISME has signed affiliation agreements with two Philippines universities—the University of Santo Tomas and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Above: Dr Bernice Pfitzner (Acting President of the Council of Women of Diverse Cultural Background), Her Excellency Mrs Domingo-Albert, and Professor George Smolicz. Photo courtesy of Professor Smolicz.

# Workshop draws overseas scholars

#### IF IT SEEMS everything these days is going digital, you might be right.

Visiting Professor John Cameron (right) was in Adelaide recently to give a public lecture on advances in medical physics. He discussed the development of digital x-ray machines, which replace traditional x-ray film with digital readout detectors.

"This will have a dramatic effect on diagnosis, both through the improved contrast and also by the ability to immediately have the information in a form suitable for telemedicine," he said.

The director of Indiana University's Cyclotron Facility, Professor Cameron also discussed the application of high-energy

charged protons in radiation therapy for cancer patients.

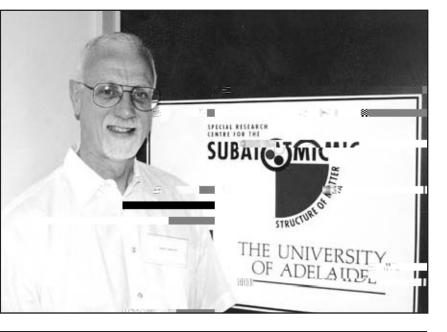
He said protons were proving more effective against deep-lying tumours than conventional radiation therapy and had the potential to save thousands of lives in the US alone.

Professor Cameron was in Adelaide last month to attend an international physics workshop at the University of Adelaide's Special Research Centre for the Subatomic Structure of Matter.

The Workshop on Future Directions in Quark Nuclear Physics drew more than 30 visitors to Adelaide from overseas.

—David Ellis

ADELAIDEAN



#### ACCOMMODATION

**ADELAIDE:** Share accomm - modern townhouse, very quiet SE cnr of city, lge private courtyard, b-ins. own study area, choice of 2 brs, suit postgrad. Rent to be discussed - could be homestay. Ph 8232 4841. HENLEY BEACH: Lge 3 to 4 br Esplanade house available furn or unfurn from July - Dec 98 neg. Suit visiting academic & family. Refs required. \$400-\$450 pw. Ph 8235 0482 or Kathie 8303 5071. HOLIDAY HOUSE: Second Valley - available during school holidays, term breaks and weekends. Modern, comfortable, views, close to beach, sleeps 5. Ph 8379 6510.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS

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