

**THE UNIVERSITY'S School of
Economics will play a significant role in
China's bid for World Trade Organisation
(WTO) membership through a multi-**



The Conference of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH), held at the University of New South Wales in July, inevitably took place in the substantial shadows cast by the West Review, the report on research funding in the Humanities prepared for the ARC by the Academy of the Humanities, and the difficult decisions to be made in response to continuing cutbacks in the public funding of universities.

Just about all the sessions—whether focused on research or on curriculum, on flexible learning or vocational training and generic skills—were preoccupied with the difficulties of maintaining balance between the increasing number and range of demands placed upon universities and their staff and the need to maintain high performance in the central activities of teaching and research.

But, while it was valuable and interesting to hear of the different ways in which faculties of Arts around the country have responded to these difficulties, the most significant session of the conference, for me, was centred on an American review document, 'Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research Universities,' prepared by the Boyer Commission and funded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The Boyer Report, which can be found on the web at <<http://www.sunysb.edu/boyerreport>>, offers an extensively-researched and extremely thoughtful account of the educational issues that can emerge as important in any university which declares itself primarily a research-based institution. In view of the current strategic directions of the University of Adelaide, it might be timely to comment on some of the report's findings.

The Boyer Report begins by acknowledging the leading role of the research universities in the higher education system in the United States: "Their graduates fill the legislature and boardrooms of the country, write the books we read, treat our ailments, litigate our issues, develop our new technologies, and provide our entertainment. To an overwhelming degree, they have furnished the cultural, intellectual, economic, and political leadership of the nation."

Still, it goes on to argue, they have too often failed their undergraduates. Against the glossy advertising background of Nobel-prize-winning researchers, world-famous professors and excellent facilities lies the reality that many students graduate without ever having glimpsed the research leaders or their research, having accumulated the necessary number of courses or points but without having acquired a coherent body of knowledge whose relationship to other fields they understand and whose principles they can communicate articulately and cogently.

The Report's analysis of the reason for the disjunction between areas of endeavour is focused on the primacy accorded to research in the measurement and assessment of the value of institutions, areas and individuals. There are few incentives to give real attention to undergraduates and teaching. Research universities, the authors insist, must make the fullest use of the intellectual and other resources of their research and graduate programmes to inform the distinctive nature and quality of the undergraduate experience they offer.

The way forward begins with an attentive selection

process that will bring to the university those students best equipped to flourish in the research environment, and these are identified, not by particular intellectual skills or examination methods, but by a disposition to certain ways of learning: "the

undergraduate who flourishes at a research university is the individual who enjoys diverse experiences, is not dismayed by complexity or size, has a degree of independence and self-reliance and seeks stimulation more than security."

The research university, says the Boyer report, is an intellectual ecosystem, its component elements bound together by shared goals of investigation and discovery; all of us must be learners even though some of us are teachers.

When it comes to specific recommendations, the Report points to a number of clearly articulated courses of action, not all of them, perhaps, as practicable in Australia as they might be in the United States. Those that most attracted me and which I am bearing in mind in the process of Divisional planning included the following:

- rebalancing resources between research and teaching, with 'guided research' under the aegis of a specific mentor as an important component of the teaching and learning process;
- constructing an inquiry-based first year, with a clear focus on research and communication skills, a balance between independent effort and joint projects, and access to a breadth of disciplines and methodologies;
- breaking down disciplinary boundaries and associated departmental hegemony to allow students to encounter interdisciplinary study and research from the outset;
- making sure that intellectual research skills—such as framing meaningful research questions or evaluating the nature and status of materials—underpin and guide the acquisition of technical skills in the use of the new technologies;
- incorporating professional training in teaching skills alongside research skills in the experience of postgraduates; and
- changing the reward system, so that good teaching is recognised as a valid form of leadership, so that research-based conferences incorporate sessions focusing on new ideas and course models for education, and funded research programmes provide for undergraduate participation.

The core of the Boyer Report lies in its urgent sense that undergraduates must be able to benefit from the unique opportunities and resources that characterise the research university. Undergraduate teaching is not a 'sideshow to the main event'; it is what guarantees the continuation and continuity of the 'community of learners' that is a university.

As universities in Australia face an unpredictable future, I believe that we will need to come to terms very quickly with the distinctiveness and specificity of our various missions. The University of Adelaide is rightly very proud of its reputation as an institution of demonstrably high quality in its research, and that status must continually and explicitly inform the education that we offer our undergraduates. The Boyer Report provides some valuable starting-points in thinking through how we are to achieve that goal.



NEWS IN BRIEF

VIRTUAL TRAJAN

The old and the new come together in a seminar presented by the Friends of the Museum of Classical Archaeology in conjunction with the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA) on Friday 21 August at 2pm in Room 723, Hughes Building.

The speaker is Dr John Papadopoulos, 1998 AAIA Visiting Professor and Research Fellow at the John Paul Getty Museum in Athens.

His presentation will focus on the virtual reality model of the Forum of Trajan in Rome constructed at the School of Arts and Architecture at the University of California (Los Angeles).

Dr Papadopoulos will discuss the uses, benefits and potential shortcomings of virtual reality modellings and computer visualisations for the field of classical archaeology.

OCEAN BY NIGHT

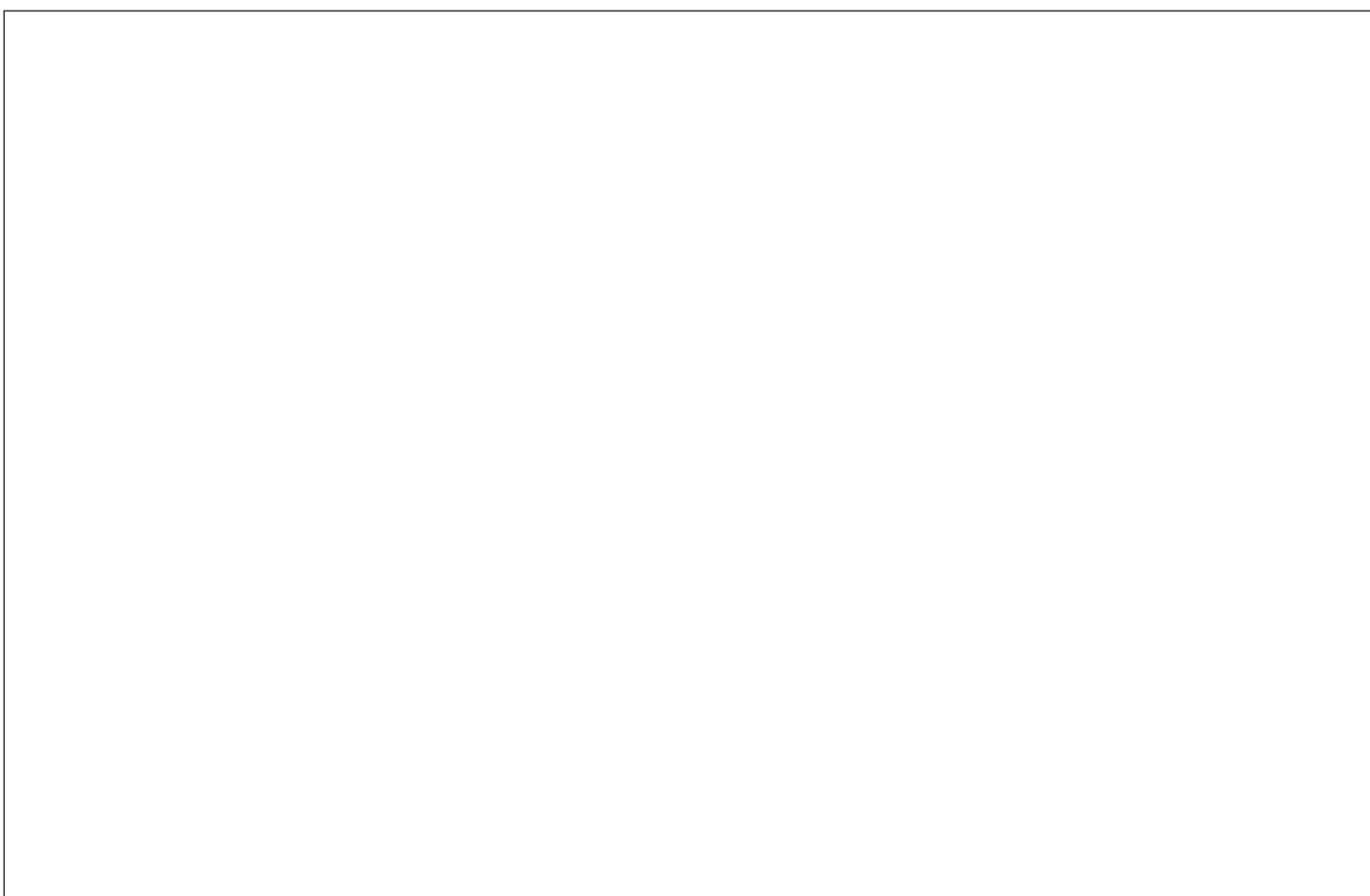
South Australian Ambassador for the International Year of the Ocean, Mrs Barbara Hardy AO, opened a new exhibition on the Ocean at the SA Museum on 6 August.

"Ocean by Night" is a joint project of the Museum and local wildlife artist Sue Stranger, and depicts more than 80 species of Australian temperate marine life.

The exhibition is part of the International Year of the Ocean agenda. All artworks in the exhibition are for sale, with part proceeds funding scientific research to contribute to the protection of Australia's temperate waters.

"Ocean by Night" runs daily until 9 October, and admission is free.

MULTICULTURAL WEEK



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Hosting a conference in Adelaide can promote your research capabilities and expertise to industry, government and the community. At the same time, staging a seminar can build your professional profile in national and international circles. However if you have no experience the Adelaide Convention and Tourism Authority can help with free assistance to identify, bid for, secure and organise an academic conference in Adelaide. ACTA can assist with:

- Preparation and presentation of bid submissions to secure conferences
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- Advice on confer

Coaching China into world trading system

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"It's designed so that our graduates not only will become good policy implementers themselves but also so they can pass on the message about the need for and likely effects of reform," Professor Anderson said.

A second series of 24 workshops, of between one and three weeks' duration, also will be developed to look specifically at what is necessary to conform with each of the Uruguay Round agreements. Six trainers will come to Adelaide to help develop the 12-module course.

A third series of four workshops will explain to senior officials in the various economic ministries why membership of the WTO is so important for China and what it will entail for their staff, Professor Anderson said.

Training efforts will be enriched by a cooperative Australia-China trade policy research component.

This \$600,000 component of the overall program will fund six collaborative research projects, to be awarded on a competitive basis.

Results of the first project, on globalisation, are expected to be presented at a high-level conference in Beijing in mid-1999.

Finally, institution-to-institution collaboration with Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, which is attached to the foreign trade ministry, will aim to improve delivery of UIBE's postgraduate courses in international economics.

That could include CIES helping to produce 10 modules for a GDIE-style course to be delivered at the Chinese institution.

Chinese government ministries are currently undergoing significant restructuring, with about half the staff being cut across the board. When the dust settles, there will be a much-streamlined bureaucracy with higher quality and younger

officials in senior positions—and the University of Adelaide will have trained a significant proportion of them, Professor Anderson said.

"For China this training and research program is very pertinent, but it's also potentially of great interest to other countries.

"What we're doing in China is equally relevant for Vietnam, Laos and other formerly planned economies that are reforming their policies and seeking to become members of the WTO."

Success has its price, however. Chinese officials' interest in coming to Adelaide has gone through the roof. At the moment the School is expecting several study tours per year from China over the next four years.

"I'm not sure how we're going to handle it," Professor Anderson said, but with a smile.

—Pamela Lyon

International best-seller for CIES

THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES has a 'runaway' international best seller on its hands, and there isn't one mention of sex in the entire tome.

The Dictionary of Trade Policy Terms, compiled by economist Walter Goode literally in his spare time and now in its second edition in as many years, already has been translated into Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese and published locally in those countries.

The greatest demand has come from World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva, where it has been the best seller in their bookshop for more than a year. Also in the WTO's 'top 10' is another CIES book, *Strengthening the Global Trading System*, edited by Professor Kym Anderson, CIES Director.

CIES publications are gaining an ever-expanding national and international readership. The latest addition to their list is a series of three reports on the economics of the wine industry, which have received considerable media coverage in the past month.

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5UV News

•5UV will be broadcasting and netcasting two seminars being organised by the Student and Staff Services Division in September. The seminars will also be retrospectively available on the Station's website. Each seminar will be looking at a particular aspect of staffing at the University. More details in the next edition of the *Adelaidean*.

• All three University student associations are involved in Student Radio from 9:30pm every night on 5UV. There are some innovative, challenging and entertaining programs produced by the students. Tune in for a surprise.

• On 5MBS you can hear Conservatorium lecturer Keith Hempton on Monday 17 August at 8pm presenting Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*. Adelaide in Concert on 5MBS and 5UV at 10am on Wednesday 19 August (repeated 8pm Sunday 22 August on 5MBS) features the Adelaide Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra with Beethoven's *Mass in C*. The following week features the Elder Baroque Ensemble.

• The Notable Lectures on 5UV at 11am on Sundays features last year's Inaugural Lectures.

16 August: Professor Margaret Sedgley (Horticulture, Viticulture and Oenology); "Plant Liberation"

16 August: Professor Don Moyes (Anaesthesia and Intensive Care); "While some must sleep, others must watch"

23 August: Professor Maciej Henneberg (Anatomical Sciences); "Human evolution is not a theory about the past: it happens now"

23 August: Professor Joseph Wiskich (Botany); "Plant mitochondria: you will wish you had them"

30 August: Professor Chilla Bulbeck (Women's Studies); "A fair deal for the fair sex? feminism in the next millennium"

30 August: Professor Robert Goldney (Psychiatry); "What do we really know about suicide behaviour?"

ALUMNI NEWS

INTERSTATE ALUMNI VISITS

The Alumni Association will be hosting receptions during August in Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney for alumni living in those centres. Invitations have been sent out to some four thousand alumni. Further details are available from the Alumni Office.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

The Alumni Association invites applications from Doctoral candidates for the AUGU/RC Heddle Award and the Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants.

Both grants are provided to assist the recipient to travel to a conference or similar gathering to present his or her work, or to travel to another institution to learn a particular method essential to his or her work. Such travel may be undertaken within the state, within Australia, or overseas.

The AUGU/RC Heddle Award was instituted by the former Graduates' Union, and is now managed by the Alumni Association. Two grants of \$1250 each are available.

The Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants are generated through a program set up by the Alumni Association and Mutual Community. Four grants, each of \$2500, are available.

Application forms may be obtained from the Alumni Office. The closing date for applications is Friday 18 September.

MEDIEVAL LITERATURE ON NET

English lecturer Tom Burton and Research Librarian Alan Keig invite alumni to explore the world of medieval literature on the Internet.

The Alumni Activities Program once again invites alumni to the Barr Smith library at 7:30pm on Thursday 24 September, for a demonstration of how modern information technology is extending our access to the literature of the middle ages.

(Please note that the date announced earlier in the year for this activity has been changed.)

There are plenty of places available, but please call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 if you would like to come along, to help us with our planning.

DISCOUNTS FOR ALUMNI MEMBERS

Alumni Association members are reminded that Unibooks now offers them a special 12% cash discount for books purchased in the General section at the Adelaide University bookshop.

Please show your membership card at the counter.

This discount does not cover textbooks and other merchandise.

Members also receive 10% discount for courses offered by the Office of Continuing Education, discount for Theatre Guild tickets, discount for computer

BROADVIEW: 2 b.r fully furnished unit to share with a female postgrad student. \$55 (neg) + expenses. Ph Nirmala 8266 7967 email: ndinesh@cieng.adelaide.edu.au

CITY: Share, 2brs avail between late Sept and early Jan, located just off Hutt Street in SE Corner of the city is walking distance to city centre - \$75 per week. Ph 8232 0241.

CITY: 5-E corner, fully- furn., air con, 2 br, lounge, family rm./ kitchen, laundry, 2 bathrms., small garden., available late September for 8 months. Ph 8223 6398.

CITY: Quiet SE corner. Share with 1 mature female. Cosy courtyard unit. Off street park m/bike only, not car. Furniture welcome. Rent

negotiable, 1 lrg or 2 small rooms. Ph. Trish 8232 4841.

GRANNY FLAT: Quiet tree lined street, 1 b.r. fully furn, close to Uni and Waite, transport. Refs & bond required. \$90 pw. Ph 8271 3386.

EASTERN SUBURBS: Wanted unfurn house to rent. 4 br, double drv, some garden areas - Sept. Excellent refs avail. Ph: 8271 3386.

GAWLER: Person wanted to share fully furn unit. 5 mins walk to train, bus and shops. \$55 pw. Ph 8303 7912.

HILTON: Lge unfurn rm avail, rest of house fully furn, share with female & dog. Big yard, off street parking, quiet area, close to shops & buses. \$80 pw (+bond) & exp. Pets neg. Ph Jennifer 8302 1635.

HOUSE SITTER AVAIL: 33 year old, single professional

working in Kent Town and Glenelg ar

12noon Plant Science Seminar:
Mapping the yellow peril - epidemiology of
grapevine yellows disease by Dr Rod
Bonfiglioli (Plant Science). Charles Hawker
Conference Centre, Waite.

12noon Student Services Forum: