

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

JULY 31, 2000

Impact of Di's death finally revealed in study

THE DEATH of Princess Diana not only created a shared sense of mourning among South Australians, it also had a much stronger impact on some people's physical and mental health, according to a new study.

Research conducted jointly by Adelaide and Flinders universities reveals there was a dramatic increase in demand for support group and counselling services in Adelaide in the weeks immediately following Diana Spencer's death.

More than 50% of metropolitan services which specialise in grief counselling experienced an increase in requests for help—not necessarily because those suffering grief were concerned for Diana or her family, but because her death had made them relive their own experiences of losing loved ones.

While most support services faced a 25% increase in calls from the public, one service received as much as 75% more calls. In many cases the services—including both specialist grief support services and the more general counselling ones—weren't prepared for the rise in need from grieving members of the public.

Princess Diana died from injuries received in a car crash on 31 August 1997. Her death shocked millions of people around the world in a way not felt since the assassination of US

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I N S I D E

**Reefs and atolls
in the outback**

page 4



**A whale
of a time**

page 6



Olympic glory



INTERVIEW

PROFESSOR PENNY BOUMELHA

LEAP provides information about learning and teaching initiatives at Adelaide University. Part of the Advisory Centre for University Education (ACUE), Leap is comprised of case studies, staff development websites and interviews.

One of this year's Leap interviews is with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education, Professor Penny Boumelha. Part of the interview is reproduced here—for the full interview, and others in the series, visit the Leap website: <www.acue.adelaide.edu.au/leap/>.

What are some of the issues you think are important for learning and teaching in the University?

I think some of the key issues that we're facing have to do with the increasing amounts of choice that students have about where they'll go and what they'll study, and their increasing awareness that they need to prepare themselves for a future which might involve several different kinds of work or several different careers.

We also have to look at the possibilities of focusing on the skills that students learn and how those can be moved across a range of

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Some material for our tribute to Sir Mark Oliphant was sourced from *Oliphant: the life and times of Sir Mark Oliphant* (Cockburn, Stewart & Ellyard, David: Axiom Books, Adelaide, 1981), the ABC website <www.abc.net.au>, and the Bright Sparcs website <www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/>.

ENTOMOLOGIST Dr Andrew Austin has been elected president of the Australian Entomological Society.

Entomology: chelor of TJ, "49r28 Tirmr icsty d.53lopw[2 Tc0.10p0sidf the Austral45 Tw

Austin said. "The last South Australian to preside over

Dr Austin, an Associate Professor with Adelaide University's Department of Applied & Molecular Ecology (Waite Campus), is well known for his work on insect systematics and biodiversity, including research into the biological control of European wasp.

He gained his Bachelor of Science (Honours) from Sydney University and a PhD at Adelaide before heading to Britain to work at the Museum of Natural History. A lecturer and researcher at Adelaide University for the past 15 years, Dr Austin is a previous winner of the Stephen Cole The Elder Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr Austin was elected for a two-year term as president of the Australian Entomological Society at the society's recent national conference in Darwin.

He said he felt "humbled" by the appointment and was pleased a South Australian had been chosen to lead the society.

"The position is a great honour for me

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Impact of Di's death finally revealed in study

From Page 1

Dr Clark said in some small way, Diana's tragic death could serve a good purpose. She said there were many positives to come out of this research, such as showing support services the importance of being prepared for high-profile deaths.

"Although these deaths don't often happen, organisations should have a contingency plan for such events, and they should also have adequate numbers of back-up staff who they can call in when their resources are stretched.

"It may also lead to better education among the community about the kinds of services available to them, and how to better cope with personal grief."

Dr Clark's work in this area follows the highly

successful launch late last year of Grieflink, a website funded by the Department of Human Services to provide information about the various grief-related support services available in South Australia. The site is a joint project between Adelaide University's Department of General Practice and the National Association for Loss and Grief (SA) Inc.

Grieflink recently won an international award from a US company for its "high quality and unique content". Other States are now expressing an interest in expanding the SA website to encompass services offered throughout Australia.

—David Ellis

To find out more about the study, visit: <www.grieflink.asn.au>.

WHEN the explorer Charles Sturt went looking for an inland sea, he wasn't wrong—just a few million years too late.

Oceans once covered great areas of what is now inland Australia. Their traces remain in fossils, minerals and geological formations that reveal much about how Earth has changed over time.

Dr Nicholas Lemon from Adelaide University's National Centre for Petroleum Geology & Geophysics (NCPGG) has been field-mapping a Precambrian reef complex in what is now the Flinders Ranges National Park.

The work began in 1984 as part of his PhD project. Interest was renewed when Dr Lemon

AN ADELAIDE University PhD graduate is aiming to make the popular pastime of whale watching a fuller and more enriching experience for the thousands of South Australians who view the huge and spectacular creatures each year.

Dr Elizabeth Reid has recently been appointed coordinator of the South Australian Whale Centre at Victor Harbor, after completing her PhD thesis late last year. The Whale Centre, which is now run by the Victor Harbor City Council, is one of the State's premier educational facilities and tourist attractions for whale watching.

Dr Reid came to Australia and to Adelaide University from Florida, USA in 1992.

"One thing led to another, and I ended up studying whale watching, or 'watching the whale watchers' as I like to say," Dr Reid said.

She completed her Masters of Environmental Studies, before beginning her PhD in 1995. Both degrees were completed through the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies (now the Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies).

Her PhD supervisors were Associate Professors Nick Harvey and Ken Dyer.

"My primary focus for the study of whale

watching was how to ensure that this tourism makes the most of its educational opportunities," she said.

"Rather than simply being an enjoyable tourism activity, whale watching can be a means of increasing people's interest in whales and their understanding of important conservation issues.

"My thesis proposed educational whale watching should raise awareness of how to practice it responsibly, without disturbance to whales or the coast, and ideally, that whale watching should engender a constituency of whale protection advocates."

Her time at Adelaide University is proving invaluable in her new role as coordinator of the Whale Centre, Dr Reid said.

"The best practice standards for educational whale watching, that I developed in my thesis, are highly appropriate for interpretive venues like the Whale Centre, so I have enjoyed this opportunity for a practical application of my research topic," she said.

"My background in environmental studies helps me to educate others about the fragile coastline we have in Encounter Bay, where most whale watching is land-based. During the Centre's promotion of whale watching, I have made it a point to emphasise that the tourism should be pursued in an environmentally responsible manner.

"My studies have also influenced other



Adelaide University graduate and coordinator of the South Australian Whale Centre, Dr Elizabeth Reid.

'environmental themes' within the Centre, and have provided me with an extensive network of like-minded conservationists.

vital and exciting part of environmental education for South Australia's whale enthusiasts."

"Together we can position the Centre as a

—Ben Osborne

Environment council not just a curiosity for our Rob

AN Adelaide University staff member has been appointed to a new national council given the task of improving environmental education in Australia.

Dr Rob Morrison, a science journalist with the University's Media, Marketing & Publications Unit, is one of three South Australians on the nine-person National Environmental Education Council.

Dr Morrison was included because of his work as Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Flinders University, and 30 years spent as a broadcaster and writer on science and environment issues.

The council is chaired by well-known ABC science identity Professor Robyn Williams, and also includes high-profile science figures Dr Timothy Flannery (director of the South Australian Museum) and Dr

Mandawuy Yunupingu (lead singer of Yothu Yindi).

Dr Morrison said the council was a major part of an Environmental Education National Action Plan announced recently by Federal Environment Minister Senator Robert Hill.

"One of the main things the council has been set up to do is identify the environmental education issues which need action at a national level," Dr Morrison said.

"A major part of that is raising the profile of environmental education not only at schools and universities, but across government departments and in the wider community.

"The council will be looking at the best ways to deliver environmental education to as many people as possible, and making recommendations to the Federal Government accordingly."

The council met for the first time in Sydney earlier this month, and plans to meet next in Adelaide in October.

"The first meeting went well, and it bodes well for the future of environmental education in Australia," Dr Morrison said. "It was noticeable at the first meeting that almost all of the people on the council had interests in more than one discipline, that people could see the bigger picture and weren't there just to advance the interests of one particular group.

"That reflects the approach to environmental education as something not to be taught in isolation, but across all aspects of the curriculum. It obviously helps if you have people with diverse interests who recognise links between subjects rather than boundaries that separate them."

—Ben Osborne



Adelaide University science journalist and member of the National Environmental Education Council, Dr Rob Morrison. Photo: Ben Osborne.

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 AUSTRALIA

IT WAS the moment of glory for the Adelaide University/Fuel & Combustion Technology torch development team when the Olympic Torch Relay came to Adelaide this month.

Staff and students involved in the development of the torch took part in relay events either as official or unofficial runners. Other staff and students from the University—including the Chancellor, Mr Robert Champion de Crespigny—were also official torch bearers.

Dr Gus Nathan (Mechanical Engineering) was the leader of the torch combustion system team. He ran as an escort runner with the Premier, Mr John Olsen (see photo, far right, with the Premier and Steven Hill):

“It was fantastic to be able to actually participate in the relay after two-and-a-half years of involvement in the design process. It was also touching to have so many of the team present to share in the celebration. The olympic torch is an incredibly powerful symbol. It seems to embody the spirit of the Olympics. Seeing people's interest and their reactions has made the project so rewarding—far more than just a technical challenge.”

Engineer **Mr Steven Hill** (Fuel & Combustion Technology):

“Though I was the FCT representative, I felt that along with Gus I was representing everybody from our combined group, and that the focus was to achieve recognition of the group. It was amazing to watch the relay from the point of view of a participant, as a designer and then as an escort runner. The relay seemed to me to be about the people, not the technology, not even

really the flame. It was about the stories of the people that ran with the flame, their friends that had come to see them and even more about the crowds that participated by lining the streets, cheering and waving.”

Fuels designer for the torch Associate **Professor Keith King** (Chemical Engineering) was among the many other torch development team members who showed up in force to watch the relay (photo, bottom right):

“It was very pleasing when the Premier stopped to pay tribute to the Fuel & Combustion System Design Team. The Premier was generous with his praise of the team when speaking after his run. The media coverage of our contribution was small relative to many of the relay runners; I think the ‘team effort’ was lost in the coverage.”

Chief design coordinator **Dr Richard Kelso**
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12noon Plant Science

Seminar: Title to be advised by Mr Steve Jefferies (PhD student); Development of endosperm without fertilisation in apomictic Hieracium by Mr Matthew Tucker (PhD student). PS Seminar Room, Waite Campus.

1.00pm Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology

Seminar: Pulmonary surfactant: plasticity and vulnerability by Dr Olga Lopatko (Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology). Seminar Room, Level 6, Medical School, North Wing.

1.00pm Environmental Biology Seminar: Ecological relativity: an approach to temporal scaling of ecological processes by Dr Ashley Sparrow (University of Canterbury). Benham Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Benham Building.

1.10pm Student Workshop: Learn deep relaxation by Mark O'Donoghue. Counselling Centre, Ground Floor, Horace Lamb Building.

3.30pm ACUE Seminar: The efficacy beliefs of international postgraduate students by Karen Adams (Lecturer, ACUE). Seminar Room 2, Level 2, Schulz Building.

1.10pm Student Workshop: Managing your emotions: Part I by Sue Barnard. Counselling Centre, Ground Floor, Horace Lamb Building.

5.00pm LaTeX Course: Scientific document preparation for beginners: engineering, maths, physics. CATS C, Top Floor, Engineering South.

8.00pm Philosophy Public Lecture: Scholarly Skywriting: Freeing the Refereed Journal Literature Online Through Public Self-Archiving by Professor Stevan Harnad (Cognitive Science, University of Southampton). Lecture Theatre 102, Level 1, Napier Building.

10.10am Electrical & Electronic Engineering Seminar: Parrondo's Paradox: Losing Strategies Can Cooperate to Win by Dr Derek Abbott (Electrical & Electronic Engineering). Room EM212, New Engineering & Mathematics Building.

12.10pm Recitals Australia 2000 Autumn Series: Rebecca Williams - piano; Stephen Van der Hoek - piano. Adults \$3/Concession \$1. Pilgrim Church, 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide.

1.10pm Geology & Geophysics Seminar: Early Cambrian "old mysteries in a new context" by Dr Richard Jenkins (Geology & Geophysics). Mawson Lecture Theatre, Mawson Laboratories.

1.10pm Genetics PhD Updates: Esther Camp and Jane Sibbons (second year). Seminar

Room, Ground Floor, Fisher Building (southern entrance).

1.10pm Student Workshop: Confident tutorial and seminar presentations by Sally Hebenstreit. Counselling Centre, Ground Floor, Horace Lamb Building.

5.30pm Centre for Biomedical Engineering Seminar: The modelling of biological ion-channels using principles from physics by Professor Shin-Ho Chung (Chemistry, Australian National University). SG15 Hone Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Medical School South. All welcome - free refreshments.

12noon Hanson Centre for Cancer Research Seminar: Dissection of global regulatory circuits in filamentous fungi by Dr Joan Kelly (Genetics). Robson Lecture Theatre, RAH.

12.05pm Psychology Seminar:

Review of the Adelaide University Law School

Call for Submissions

The University is currently undertaking a review of the Law School.

Staff, students and members of the community are invited to make a submission to the Review on matters relevant to the Terms of Reference. The primary term of reference is to evaluate the quality of the Law School and its academic programmes in relation to international standards of Law education.

The complete terms of reference can be obtained at the following web address:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/DVC/reviews/law_review.html>,

or by contacting Tim Scroop, Reviews Officer, on 8303 5902.

It is requested that submissions be received by Friday 8 September 2000. They should be sent to Tim Scroop, Reviews Officer, Room G04, Mitchell Building, Adelaide University, SA, 5005. Please indicate if you wish your submission to be confidential.

PROFESSOR PENNY
BOUMELHA
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Education)

University Teaching Development Grants 2000

The aim of the University Teaching Development Grant is to promote the enhancement of learning and teaching at the University of Adelaide.

Applications are invited for the 2000 round of the University of Adelaide Teaching Development Grants. The Grants are intended to promote good learning and teaching practices; to encourage and foster innovation in higher education teaching; and to provide staff development opportunities at the University of Adelaide.

A total of \$150,000 will generally be available and is to be used by the successful individual(s), team, department or centre to effect practical improvements in learning and teaching. Individual grants are

Research Grants & Fellowships

The following is a list of grant, fellowship and other research funding schemes currently available for application. A more detailed electronic version of this listing, together with guidelines and application forms for some of the major schemes, are available at: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/RB/>. For hard copy application forms and guidelines for the funding schemes listed below, contact the Research Branch, ext 35137; or email kelly.parish@adelaide.edu.au.

Sponsored Programs Information Network (SPIN): SPIN Australia - A database containing current and compre-