

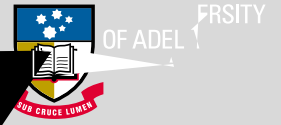
Adelaidean

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News from the University of Adelaide

September 2002

I N S I D E



future

With the opening of the new building, the University of Adelaide is now seen as the centre of education for Australia's \$16 billion oil and gas industry.

The building is the new home of the National



PRIME Minister John Howard has praised the generosity and forward thinking of Australian energy company Santos at the recent opening of the University of Adelaide's new Santos Petroleum Engineering Building.

The new building, officially opened by the Prime Minister on August 23, is home to staff and students from the University's School of Petroleum Engineering and Management, which began teaching this year.

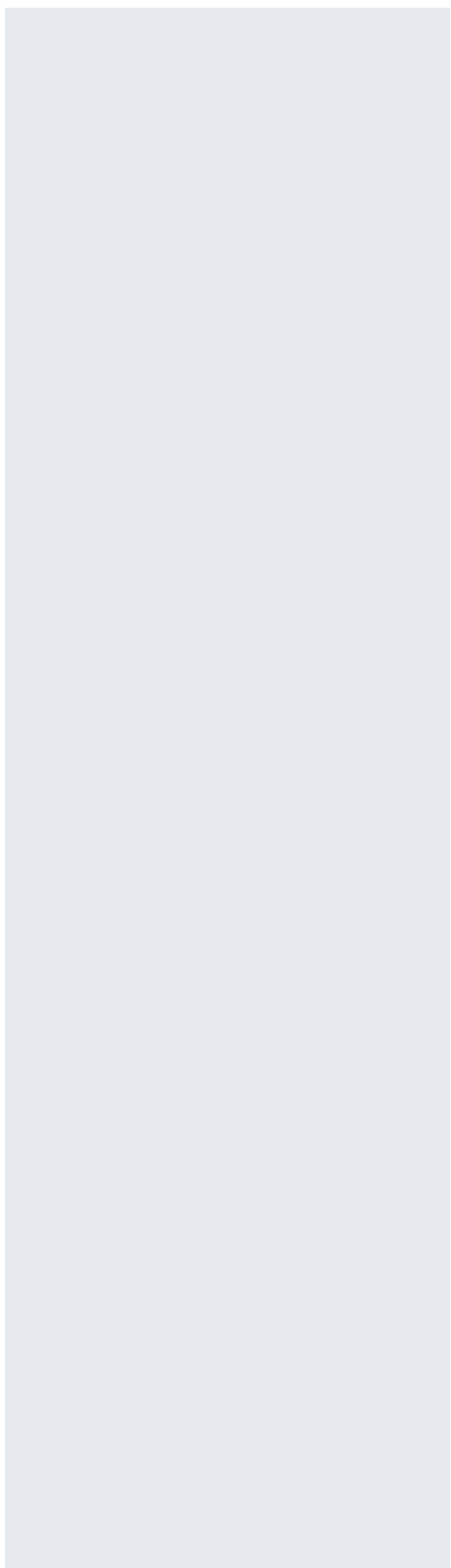
Santos is providing \$25 million over 10 years to the University for the school. This includes funding for the new building, provision for scholarships, specialised teaching equipment and a professorial position, held by the school's Head, Professor Peter Behr. The Federal Government has also provided \$1 million towards an additional chair, the Reg Sprigg Chair, which is also being added to the school.

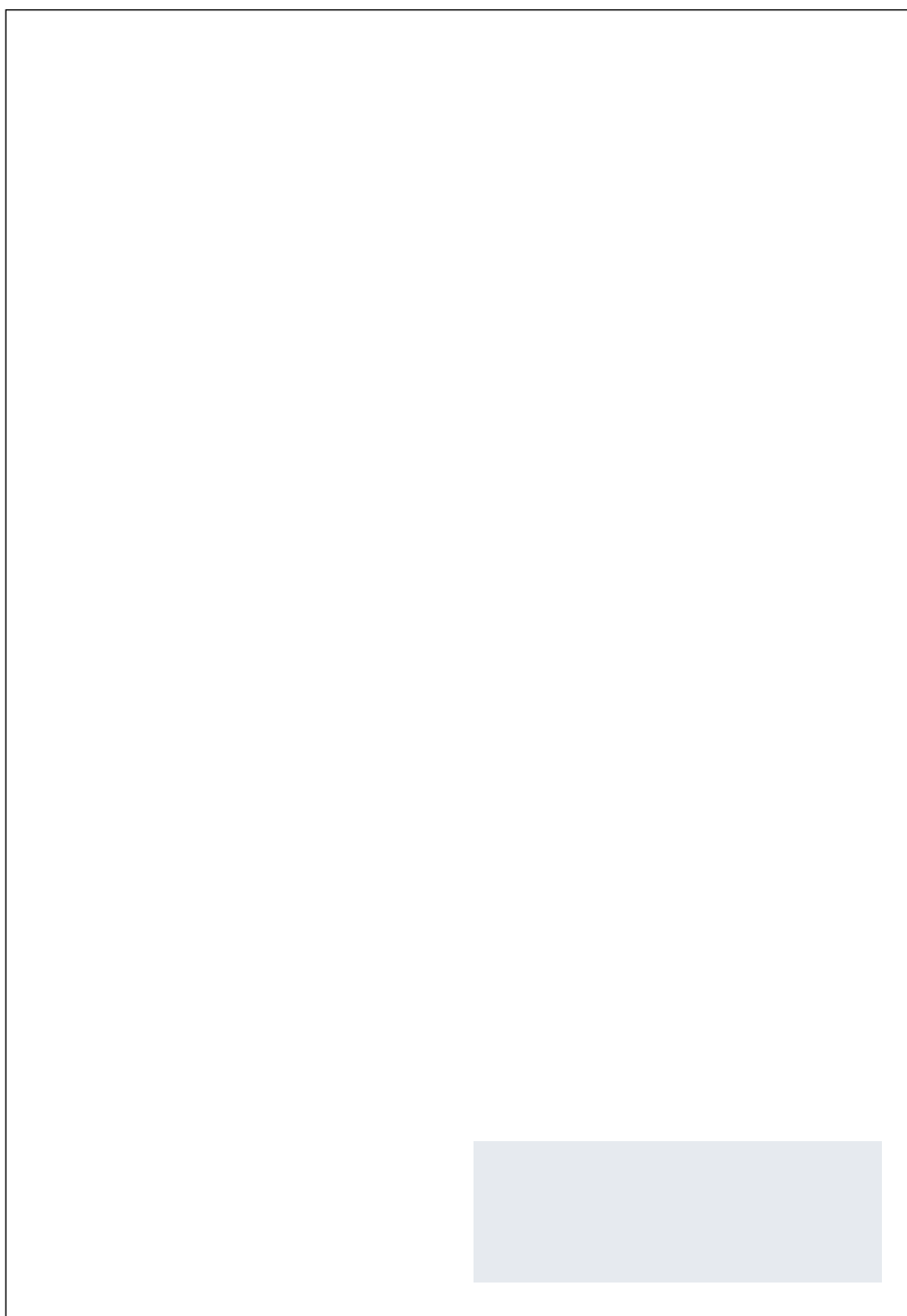
any Australian university. The building, including specialised equipment, has cost around \$7.5 million.

"The opening of this building is the next major stage in the development of our school," said Howard.

"It is a purpose-built facility which we will use to develop our curriculum and provide a world-class education in industry."

"The





A TEAM of University of Adelaide researchers has been awarded a program grant of \$8.3 million over five years by the National Health and Medical Research

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A PUZZLING illness that affects the digestive systems of thousands of Australians is now being studied by researchers at the University of Adelaide.

The condition, called functional dyspepsia, is believed to be suffered by at least one in every 50 Australians.

While about a quarter of the population suffers some form of digestive symptoms, up to 10% of those are believed to suffer from functional dyspepsia.

Symptoms include nausea, bloating, feeling full, and in some cases, vomiting—and the symptoms are frequently related to food ingestion. The ongoing discomfort caused to sufferers can be extremely disruptive to their lives. It can also be frustrating, as the cause of the problem is relatively unknown, despite many sufferers having undergone tests from their GPs and specialists.

The University of Adelaide's Department of Medicine is now seeking ss reh-1.15*-0.070T(r)9.5oThak219 about 's m e, m eust*-0.070T(r)5T*-0.0098 Tc0habitir GPTspecialists.

Antarctic adventure for Adelaide student



GEOLOGY student Kirsty Brown is leaving Adelaide, Australia to spend three years in... Adelaide, Antarctica.

Adelaide Island to be exact.

A PhD student, Ms Brown has been awarded a highly sought-after position working with the British Antarctic Survey. In Antarctica, she'll be working with a team of researchers looking at the impact of icebergs on animal and plant life at the sea floor.

The new position will put her scuba diving skills to good use. Ms Brown has been diving for the past seven years, including off the coast of Greenland.

Her diving also came in handy during her research at the University of Adelaide. For the past four years the British student has been studying sediment produced by organisms that live on seagrasses along the South Australian coast.

"My main survey point was West Island near Victor Harbor—I spent about two months out of every year there," Ms Brown said.

"I've been diving right along the South Australian coast, from Streaky Bay down to Robe. I've done tropical, temperate, Arctic and now I'll be doing Antarctic diving, so I feel very lucky," she said. "I'll be down there scuba diving every day of the year, if I can."

Ms Brown's research has combined elements of marine geology and biology, and her new position will move her further into the marine biology field.

The research involves looking at the damage caused by icebergs as they scrape along the sea floor. This process, known as "grounding" or "berging", destroys flora and fauna on the sea floor.

"We'll be looking at how the organisms down there survive in those conditions, and how fast they recover.

"The overall scope of that project is that with



increases in global warming, the number of icebergs produced will increase. It's possible the animals and plant life may not be able to survive with increased rates of berging," she said.

Ms Brown will use some of her time off in

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"Smart pills" under microscope in new study

CAN a herbal tablet improve your memory and intelligence?

That's the question being put to the test by University of Adelaide and CSIRO scientists in a new trial of the herbal supplement ginkgo biloba.

Made from the extracts of leaves of the maidenhair tree, ginkgo biloba has been used for thousands of years in Asia and is among the most commonly prescribed drugs in France and Germany.

Ginkgo is said to relieve many conditions common in ageing, such as difficulties of concentration, memory loss, absent-mindedness, confusion, lack of energy and tiredness. It has also been assessed for its usefulness in Alzheimer's Disease.

Despite recent results from the US claiming there is little benefit from the herb, Adelaide-based scientists believe there's still much to investigate. Researchers from the University's

Department of Psychology and the CSIRO's Division of Health Sciences and Nutrition want to put some of those theories about ginkgo to the test—in young people.

Nick Burns, lecturer in Psychology at the University of Adelaide, said the new study would involve 100 healthy young men aged 18 to 40.

"Participants will need to take tablets three times daily, containing either the herbal supplement or an inactive placebo. After 12 weeks, we'll conduct tests to see if there are any changes in cognitive performance," he said.

"While we remain healthily sceptical about the effects ginkgo might have on people, the potential benefits should not be ignored, which is why we're conducting the study.

"We also need to put the herbal supplement to the test, so that consumers have a better understanding of what they're buying."

—David Ellis
—Kerry Statham



COMING EVENTS

September 2002

1pm Departments of Social Inquiry and English "Reconciliation, Citizenship and (Auto)biography" Seminar:

1.10pm Geographical and Environmental Studies Seminar:

3.15pm Anthropology Seminar:

12.30pm Clinical Nursing Seminar:

4.10pm Physiology Seminar:

12.05pm Psychology Seminar:

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert:

4pm Obstetrics and Gynaecology Seminar:

1pm Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre Seminar:

1.10pm Geographical and Environmental Studies Seminar:

1.10 Student Workshop:

2.10pm Departments of Social Inquiry and English "Reconciliation, Citizenship and (Auto)biography" Seminar:

3.15pm Anthropology Seminar:

4.10pm Physiology Seminar:

12.05pm Psychology Seminar:

1pm Chemical Pathology Seminar:

1pm Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development Seminar:

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert:

4pm Obstetrics and Gynaecology Seminar:

1.10 Student Workshop:

7.30pm Australian Institute of Physics Public Lecture:

1.10 Student Workshop:

10.10am Centre for Biomedical Engineering Seminar:

12.30pm Clinical Nursing Seminar:

4.10pm Physiology Seminar:

5.30pm Centre for Biomedical Engineering Seminar:

1pm Chemical Pathology Seminar:

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert:

2pm Centre for Asian Studies Seminar:

1pm Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre Seminar:

7.30pm Musicological Society of Australia South Australia Chapter Seminar:

1pm Chemical Pathology Seminar:

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert:

2pm Centre for Asian Studies Seminar:

4pm Obstetrics and Gynaecology Seminar:

5.30pm Joseph Fisher Lecture:

(08) 8303 5672.

Scientists angry over proposed GM moratorium

ADELAIDE scientists are speaking out against what they describe as misinformation in the community about genetically modified (GM) crops.

They're also concerned about moves by some politicians to place a moratorium on GM crops.

The scientists say some South Australian Members of Parliament who supported the moratorium had ignored offers of more information about the scientific facts surrounding GM crops.

The group of scientists includes Australian and world leaders in their fields, from the University of Adelaide, the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Australian Weed Management and the CRC for Molecular Plant Breeding.

On July 17, South Australian Democrats MLC Mr Ian Gilfillan introduced a Bill to State Parliament for a five-year moratorium on GM crops.

The Adelaide scientists, led by Professor Peter Langridge (Department of Plant Science, University of Adelaide, and CRC for Molecular Plant Breeding) and Dr Rick Roush (CRC for Australian Weed Management), have issued a statement to Parliament countering what they described as misleading information about GM crops.

"We believe that public policy should be made on the basis of facts and not scare campaigns, such as the campaigns supported by Ian Gilfillan and others," Dr Roush said.

The statement to Parliament sets out many of the scientists' concerns about the proposed moratorium.

"We believe the legislation is ill-conceived and potentially damaging to South Australia's future economy," the statement said.

"The damage that a moratorium would bring to SA comes from three key directions.

"First, it creates the expectation in farmers

that there is a large GM-free market, but surveys and analyses that have been conducted in Australia and overseas show this is simply untrue. We would risk sending producers off chasing illusory market benefits while precluding them from reaping the gains from an emerging technology.

"Second, GM technology offers some major advantages over current technology and these have been well studied and documented.

"Third, the application of any technology is a slow and meticulous process. New varieties need to go through extensive field testing and analysis. If we turn our backs on a valuable technology now, precluding its evaluation for five years, we cannot expect to introduce it rapidly later when the misinformation from the recent tour campaign has died down."

The statement referred to the recent visit of a Canadian farmer, Mr Percy Schmeiser, who claimed that his canola crops were the victim of GM cross-pollination.

The Adelaide scientists say some politicians have been readily accepting of Mr Schmeiser's claims, despite locally available expertise on GM crops, and canola in particular. This expertise includes the publication, in a recent issue of the journal *Science*, of the world's largest study of pollen flow in canola.

"Despite scientific facts showing that the risk of pollen flow and hybridisation is extremely low, and despite a ruling by the Federal Court of Canada on the issue, Mr Schmeiser had continued to receive support from Mr Gilfillan and organisations such as

Eureka prize to Adelaide science journalist

SCIENCE communicator and former University of Adelaide science journalist Dr Rob Morrison has been awarded the \$10,000 Australian Skeptics Eureka Prize for Critical Thinking.

The prize was one of 18 Eureka's handed out by the Australian Museum in Sydney last month.

The Prize for Critical Thinking is awarded for investigation into beliefs that owe little or nothing to the rigours of scientific method.

Dr Morrison won for an article called *Trust Me, I'm a Science Communicator*, a study examining how the mechanics and requirements of successful science communication differ sharply from those of formal scientific research reports, and so bias science communication towards the sensational, speculative, hyperbolic and even fanciful.

Dr Morrison wrote the article while working as a Science Journalist at the University of Adelaide last year. An edited version of the winning article was printed in the *Adelaidean* last October.

The full version of his prize-winning article can be found on the University's website: www.adelaide.edu.au/pr/media/releases/2002/morrison_paper.html

Jamie qualifies for national finals, wins \$4000

IN the Australian Percussion Eisteddfod held in Sydney last month, 11 University of Adelaide percussion students took on their counterparts from conservatoriums and music schools throughout the country.

Undaunted by the challenge, the Elder School of Music squad went on to win or be placed in eight of the 14 categories entered. Collecting five firsts, four second and five third-placing awards, the Adelaide team successfully wiped the competition off the board.

The two-day Eisteddfod featured an intensive series of competitions open to primary, junior, intermediate and senior music students nationally. Musicians took part in a series of solo and ensemble competitions featuring all percussion instruments from marimba to snare drums.

The winning Adelaide team, all aged between 17 and 26, are: Rachel Rodwell, Nick Parnell, Katie Seaman, Ryan Simm, Jamie Adam, Luke Hague, Paul Butler, Aaron Austin, Nicole Weepers, Fleur Green and Andrew Buchan.

Masters student Nick Parnell collected two firsts for the Senior Multiple Percussion and Open Solo Keyboard events.

Newcomer on the scene, 17-year-old single studies student Luke Hague, made his competition debut and won a first in the Intermediate Solo Keyboard.

Jamie Adam, a double winner in last year's Eisteddfod, won a first in the Senior Multiple Percussion and Open Solo Keyboard events.

Elder School Open Day

The Elder School of Music throws open its doors... with Choral, Jazz, Orchestral and Chamber Music performances plus Music Technology. Hear a preview of the Three Choirs Concert, observe ensembles and workshops in action.

Choral splendour Annual jazz awards concert

THE Elder School of Music presents a magnificent program of choral works on Saturday, September 14 at 8.00pm in Elder Hall as part of its Evening Concert Series.

This concert will debut three new choirs: Elder Conservatorium Chorale, Adelaide Voices (ex-Chamber Choir) and Bella Voce (ex-Women's Choir), all of which evolved from the former choirs of the Elder Conservatorium and the Flinders Street School of Music.

The program will include *Chichester Psalms* (for choir, organ, harp and percussion) by Leonard Bernstein and *Rejoice in the Lamb* (for choir and organ) by Benjamin Britten.

Carl Crossin, well known to audiences in South Australia as founder and director of the Adelaide Chamber Singers, will conduct the program.

Tickets: \$22 Adult/\$14 Conc/\$8 Student at BASS outlets or at the door (University of Adelaide staff at concession prices).

It's not too late to subscribe to the last four concerts, see brochures available from BASS outlets or at www.music.adelaide.edu.au, or contact the Coordinator, Evening Concert Series on (08) 8303 5925 (Tues/Thurs) or mobile: 0402 120 478.

THE annual Jazz Awards concerts have won a well-deserved reputation for showcasing the best talent from the Elder School of Music's Jazz Studies in one venue, giving Adelaide jazz followers a once-a-year opportunity to spot the stars of tomorrow.

Adelaide business and corporate sectors have once again rallied to recognise the talents of the high achieving award winners by sponsoring cash prizes:

Adelaide City Council Award for Most Outstanding Postgraduate (Adam Lee, guitarist); Adelaide City Council Award for Most Outstanding Undergraduate (Chris Martin, pianist); Baron Partners Award for Second Most Outstanding Postgraduate (Shane Ellery, pianist); dB Magazine Award for Top Undergraduate - Jazz Guitar (James Brown); Envestra Limited Award for Top Undergraduate - Saxophone (Derek Pascoe); and John Reynolds Music City Award for Top Undergraduate - Drums (Hugh Harvey).

Annual Jazz Awards Concert
8pm Wednesday, September 4
Scott Theatre, University of Adelaide
Tickets \$10 and \$5
Bookings: (08) 8303 5925

MORE than 6000 competitors are expected to converge on Adelaide for the nation's biggest university sporting festival, the Australian University Games.

This year the games are being co-hosted by three South Australian universities—Adelaide, Flinders and UniSA.

The Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson—herself an Australian sporting legend—will officially open the games at a ceremony at the Memorial Drive Tennis Centre on Sunday, September 29.

Admission to the opening is free, and all participants and members of the public are welcome to attend. Entertainment starts at 6.30pm, with the ceremony starting at 7pm.

Rhodes scholar off to Oxford

OUR latest Rhodes Scholarship winner, Law/Commerce graduate Ben Allgrove, has now left Adelaide to begin his studies at Oxford University.

One of the world's most prestigious scholarships, the Rhodes Scholarship is again accepting applications from South Australian university students.

The Rhodes Trust offers nine scholarships in Australia each year, one awarded in each State and three for Australia at large.

Ben Allgrove continues a long history of University of Adelaide students to win the scholarship. At Oxford he will be studying for a DPhil (PhD) in Law.

Ben graduated with First Class Honours in Law and was a University Medallist.

As with all Rhodes scholars, he was not selected for academic achievement alone. During his time at the University he was also heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, including Vice-President of the Adelaide University Union, Orientation Coordinator, playing rugby, and coaching rowing for the Adelaide University Union Boat Club.

Since graduating, he was an Associate to the Honourable Justice DeBelle of the Supreme Court of South Australia, and was also research assistant to the Solicitor-General for South Australia, Mr Brad Selway, an Adjunct Professor of the Law School.

Rhodes scholars receive a generous stipend

ALUMNI NEWS

