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Professor Karen Reynolds
SA Scientist of the Year

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inspiring achievement



Encounter

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

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Professor Karen Reynolds was honoured with the Award of *South Australian Scientist of the Year*.

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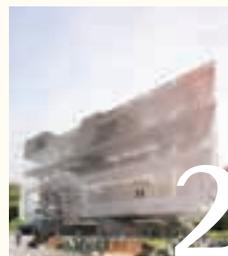
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Building with attitude at Tonsley

The design of Flinders' new \$120 million teaching, research and innovation space at Tonsley Park will capture and incorporate the principles that have contributed to the University's past success and will define its future achievements.

The design team tapped the ideas and inspiration of staff, students and the public to plan a space that would have the utility and flexibility to meet the changing needs of an evolving modern workplace while, at the same time, providing a personally rewarding and satisfying environment for those who work and study there.

The state-of-the-art building, which will occupy a prominent position adjoining the 'town square' in the Tonsley redevelopment, will house the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics, the University's Medical Device Research Institute, Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership Office and Flinders Partners, as well as provide a presence for the Centre for NanoScale Science and Technology. It will also be closely located with TAFE giving the University further scope to develop its key strengths in collaboration with education and industry partners.

With these collaborative opportunities, and the vision of the site as a hub for high-value manufacturing in mind, the design team had the opportunity to embrace architectural, living and working space principles not afforded by recent construction on, and refurbishment of, Flinders' 50 year old Bedford Park campus.

The design incorporates flexible spaces that will encourage the sharing of ideas and knowledge and eschew the traditional concept of people or entities 'owning a space'. Flinders' prominent public profile – founded on its 'gold and bold' marketing – will carry into the new building as people associate the innovation of the University's teaching and research with the building's architecture and aesthetic appeal.

The building will also have the resilience and flexibility to adapt seamlessly to advances in technology and practices while facilitating the constant overlapping of teaching, research and industry participation required for the most effective collaboration with industry and the community.

With construction scheduled to start by June 2013, Flinders' presence at Tonsley Park will commence in early 2015 and add a new dimension to the character of Flinders University.

Peter Gill

Biology Discovery Centre

State-of-the-art teaching laboratories combined with a three-storey high ecosystem within the new Biology Discovery Centre have transformed teaching and learning for biology students at Flinders.

Classes commenced in the second semester in the recently completed \$8 million facility, which is located immediately to the south of the original 1960s Biological Sciences building. The Centre's ultramodern, geometric exterior houses spacious laboratories that have been fitted with modular benches to allow flexible use of space and large audio-visual screens to assist in pre-lab instruction and teaching.

The ecosystem will house lizards, songbirds and a group of fairy penguins in a space that runs the full height of the building and can be viewed from all three levels.

A sophisticated system of microphones and cameras will transmit live feeds from the bird and animal burrows into the first-floor animal behaviour laboratory and onto the internet for viewing off-campus; built-in scales will enable animals to be weighed without being handled.

"Thanks to the new facilities, students will be able to learn how to do statistical analysis and data presentation non-invasively, and will also have the opportunity to observe the animals' behaviour directly, complementing their program of field trips," Professor Sonia Kleindorfer said.





The sad story of Agnes set to echo around the world

Photo: Nicholas Purcell

While some PhD theses may be fated to languish on library shelves, undisturbed for decades, Hannah Kent's work faces a very different future.

By this time next year, the novel that forms the centrepiece of her creative writing PhD will have been read by hundreds of thousands of people.

Hannah (pictured) and her debut novel *Burial Rites* made national headlines earlier this year when the manuscript became the subject of an intense bidding war between international publishing houses. With Hannah securing a two-novel deal from Picador (Australia) and Little Brown in the US, *Burial Rites* is due for a mid-2013 release in Australia, the US and the UK, with translated versions in no less than 15 different languages to follow.

"I've been very fortunate in that people have responded very well to the book; it's struck a chord," Hannah said.

Scandinavian crime is currently enormously popular, and while her book is very much literary fiction and not a thriller, Hannah said that fascination with Scandinavian settings may have contributed to the interest.

Hannah was in Iceland as a teenage exchange student when she first heard the story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, who in 1830 was the last Icelandic woman to be executed for murder.

While the known facts of the crime and execution provide the novel's background, Hannah said her aim was to throw new light on Agnes's character.

"When you go to research her life or read stories about the murder, who she is as a person is largely absent – she's only there as a stereotype."

Hannah said that a combination of a biased representation and a lack of information provided an ideal opportunity for "speculative biography", a genre that blends history and fiction. Its premise is not to rewrite events, but to flesh them out in a plausible way.

"If there's a fact there you have to stick to it, but at the same time it's all about filling in the gaps. You're providing not a definitive history of somebody's life, but a suggestion of what it might have been like," Hannah said.

There is mystery, but no 'whodunit', in *Burial Rites*: "It's much more concerned with her inherent ambiguity. I'm interested in the idea that we are all capable of extreme acts of kindness and cruelty as well."

While the plot of her second book is still in its infancy, Hannah said the story is again likely to be set in the past, this time in 19th century Ireland.

"The focus will be on superstition, and the way in which it can alter people's lives for good and bad, and the way it can break and bind communities."

Hannah said that while the creative process is highly individualised, she believed the importance of reading is paramount.

"The greatest thing I've ever done for my writing is that I've always been a voracious reader. It's the best thing that any writer can do to try and develop their skills, their own style and their own voice," Hannah said.

"Certainly in the first stages of writing, when you are literally imagining a story, you need to trust your creative impulse – you can't be too calculating or objective."

She said that once the raw material has been produced, a period of exhaustive editing and rewriting follows.

"It's important to know how to practise and to balance the two sets of skills," she said.

The final flurry of editing and revision made it necessary for Hannah to withdraw from her teaching role at Flinders, but she hopes to return when "things have calmed down a little bit".

Hannah said that she is finally coming to terms with her status as a professional author.

"I never, ever thought I'd be able to sustain a career just from writing; it's only very recently that I've felt as though it's not an elaborate prank."

Charles Gent

Engineering great achievements

Professor Karen Reynolds achieved one of the highest accolades for a Flinders University academic when she was named *South Australian Scientist of the Year* for 2012.

Director of the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) at Flinders, Professor Reynolds has been a leading force behind the design and development of a range of innovative medical technologies, including surgery simulators and other assistive devices, in collaboration with clinicians, industry and government.

“Biomedical engineering is a niche field of engineering but it’s a very important area for South Australia, particularly for the future growth of the medical device industry,” Professor Reynolds told *Encounter*.

The honour capped two years of recognition for Professor Reynolds who is Director of the Medical Device Research Institute and Deputy Dean of the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics. SA’s top award followed Professor Reynolds being named in the *Top 100 Most Influential Engineers in Australia* (2012), Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (2011) and *Australian Professional Engineer of the Year* (2010).

Ever modest, Professor Reynolds attributes the MDPP’s enviable record of success to teamwork and collaborative effort, and says the same traits have seen engineering at Flinders develop a new momentum in recent years.

“This award has my name on it, but at the end of the day, the success is due to a team of people who are incredibly positive and who pull together,” Professor Reynolds said.

Professor Reynolds identifies patience, negotiation and problem-solving as intrinsic to her success.

“What led me to establish the MDPP was a need to break down the recognised barriers to industry and university engagement,” she said.

Professor Reynolds has clearly achieved that goal with the MDPP recognised in late 2011 as the *Best Research and Development Collaboration* in the prestigious Business-Higher Education Round Table Awards.

Receiving South Australia’s premier award for science capped a very successful awards night for Flinders University’s scientists. Dr Cameron Shearer received the award for *PhD Research Excellence in Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering* for his work in the field of nanotechnology and Dr Rachel Popelka-Filcoff was named *SA Tall Poppy of the Year* in recognition of her achievements as an early career researcher in analyzing ochre to gain insights into Indigenous culture.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barber, applauded the success of all of the Flinders’ finalists in the Science Excellence Awards which also included Professor John Miners (*SA Scientist of the Year* category), Dr Paul Gardner-Stephen (*Early Career Professional* category, and *Tall Poppy Award* finalist) and Mr David Hobbs and Dr Simon Williams (*Early Career Educator* category).

“The SA Science Excellence Awards recognise the highest achievements in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). At a time when expertise in these fields is required more than ever for the future success of our economy and society, it is hoped these awards inspire students to enrol in STEM subjects and go on to find the same excitement and reward in their careers as our successful finalists,” Professor Barber said.

Peter Gill

Professor Karen Reynolds operates the award-winning Hexapod Robot designed by a joint Flinders University and Adelaide University team to enhance understanding of the 3D performance of normal and diseased joints and their artificial replacements by simulating complex joint motion.

Photo: Randy Larcombe



Odds on for grant success

When esteemed Flinders University Professor John Miners (pictured) makes his next grant bid, the odds of success are surely in his favour.

The Head of Clinical Pharmacology holds an impressive track record of securing grants for projects that he has submitted to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The continuous financial backing of the NHMRC, Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research, spans almost 35 years and encompasses 25 project grants and one program grant worth a total of \$9.9 million.

This includes 14 grants in which Professor Miners has held the role of primary chief investigator, with most of the projects based around the metabolism of drugs in the body, which has been his forte since he completed his PhD in medicinal chemistry in 1974, at the age of 25.

"My success has been very much dependent on the collaborations I've developed with my senior colleagues, research staff and postgraduate students in clinical pharmacology," Professor Miners says of his grant success.

"We work very much as a team and I believe that's been a critical factor in my success and the success of the department," he says.

Born and raised in New Zealand, Professor Miners attained his PhD from the Victoria University of Wellington before moving to the UK in 1974, where he worked for three years as a postdoctoral scientist at the University of Oxford.

He joined Flinders Medical Centre's Department of Medical Biochemistry in 1977 then transferred to the newly-formed Department of Clinical Pharmacology a year later, and as he says, "the rest is history".

"It's not really something I planned; it's just how things worked out, although I was particularly attracted to clinical pharmacology as a discipline," Professor Miners – who was a finalist for the 2012 *South Australian Scientist of the Year* award – says.

"When I first started my career in pharmacology, the thing that struck me was how differently patients varied in their response to drugs.

"In some people the dose you give them could be too low and so the drug is ineffective, but in others it could be too high which means you're essentially poisoning them, so it's vital to get it right."



Photo: Randy Larcombe

His latest NHMRC grant of \$517,000, awarded in October, will explore the mechanisms by which anti-cancer drugs called tyrosine-kinase inhibitors (TKIs) interact with other co-administered drugs, thereby preventing them from being properly expelled from the body, which leads to toxic build up.

The research team, including Flinders professors Kathleen Knights, Peter Mackenzie, Ross McKinnon and Dr Andrew Rowland, will spend the next three years investigating how TKIs interfere with the breakdown of other drugs in the liver, both in the way the drugs are transported to and from the liver and in the way the liver metabolises the drugs.

On a personal level, Professor Miners says it has been "extremely satisfying" to work in an area that is vital to patient treatment.

"My research is very much focused and directed to translational outcomes, especially the improvement of drug safety and efficacy in patients, and in the pre-clinical assessment of newly-discovered drugs."

Emily Charrison

Global minds unite at Flinders

Flinders University is garnering significant intellectual horsepower from across the globe, with numerous world-leading researchers taking up strategic professorial positions at the institution.

Since launching its Strategic Professorship program in 2010, Flinders has attracted more than a dozen elite academics to the University, including experts in cognitive neuroscience, criminology, cancer research, mathematics and creative arts.

The scheme is designed to enhance the University's reputation for research and teaching excellence by building academic leadership in areas of strategic significance.

Among the recent appointments, international groundwater expert Okke Batelaan began his new role as Strategic Professor of Hydrology in August after two decades at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, while distinguished theatre historian Julian Meyrick, a former associate director at the Melbourne Theatre Company, an honorary fellow in the drama and theatre program at Melbourne's LaTrobe University and a former critic, arrived at Flinders in October.

Professor Justine Smith, who earned her PhD from Flinders in 1998, returned to the University's Ophthalmology Department in November.



Tireless advocacy an appeal to justice

Dr Bob Moles with Ms Bibi Sangha

Photo: Ashton Claridge

'Activism' is a loaded word, conjuring images of noisy protesters, angry placards and street demonstrations.

But Ms Bibi Sangha, a Flinders law academic, and her colleague Dr Bob Moles have proved how fighting for a cause through quiet, persistent and rigorous effort – using our democratic processes and institutions – can have far-reaching consequences.

South Australia's Attorney-General John Rau has recently instructed his department to draft a new statutory right of appeal that will enable prisoners with evidence of a wrongful conviction to directly approach the courts.

It is the culmination of years of advocacy and research by Ms Sangha and Dr Moles, who have argued in books, international journals and a variety of public forums that legal limitations that restrict the right to fair trial put South Australia – and Australia – at odds with international rights and obligations.

Ms Sangha said that the self-imposed limitations potentially leave unfairly convicted people unable to contest miscarriages of justice.

"For instance, the Court of Appeal says that even in the face of compelling new evidence, it cannot hear a further appeal once an initial appeal has been rejected," Ms Sangha said.

Similarly, the High Court says that constitutionally it is unable to receive fresh evidence indicating a possible miscarriage of justice.

And in South Australia, the remaining option of a statutory petition falls to the discretion of the Attorney-General, meaning that the petition may never achieve a judicial review.

This is even when there is new evidence, or clear evidence of errors by the prosecution's expert witnesses, Ms Sangha said.

"In effect, unfair convictions are being excluded from the judicial review process, which is clearly inconsistent with the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," she said.

Ms Sangha said that the deficiencies fly in the face of international legal principles and also of the rule of law.

"I see it as a very serious and fundamental failure of the legal system, and it has been going on for some 30 years," she said.

Earlier this year, Ms Sangha appeared before the South Australian Legislative Review Committee in support of a 76-page submission written by her and Dr Moles that outlines the failure of judicial processes to allow for post-conviction reviews of alleged miscarriages of justice.

It is estimated, for example, that more than a dozen existing South Australian convictions for serious crimes have grounds for a judicial appeal.

It was their 2010 book on unjust convictions stemming from flawed forensic evidence that first prompted Ann Bressington MLC to propose the establishment of a Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), along UK lines, which was then referred to the Committee.

While the Committee did not back the setting up of a broadly based CCRC, it recommended the formation of a Forensic Review Panel that will have the capacity to recommend appeals in the light of doubt over forensic issues.

The committee also recommended a review of expert evidence and the way it is received in courts in criminal matters.

"We highlighted in our book and in our submission to the inquiry that a common cause of wrongful convictions is the admission of unreliable forensic evidence," Ms Sangha said.

"It can have a seriously prejudicial effect on the minds of jurors – and is frequently not sufficiently scrutinised by judges or probed or tested by defence lawyers," she said.

Ms Sangha's position was supported the Australian Human Rights Commission, which has also made a submission to the Legislative Review Committee.

"Essentially they agree with what we have been saying – that the criminal appeals system across Australia does not protect the right to fair trial, and does not provide a proper opportunity for appeal for someone who is the subject of a miscarriage of justice."

If passed, the Bill is likely to have profound ramifications in South Australia and possibly in other States which may modify their own legislation to retain a common national approach.

Charles Gent and Vincent Ciccarello

Flinders shows its support for women in leadership

A new networking group has been set up by Flinders University to encourage and support women in positions of power.

The Women in Leadership Program, developed by the University's Marketing and Communications Office, provides a platform for both Flinders staff and alumni to share their experiences, network and receive career advice from like-minded professional women.

The group has held about six informal functions since the program first started earlier this year, including a theatre night, high tea and several luncheons attended by a cross-section of women from a range of different careers, ages and cultural backgrounds.

Flinders University Deputy Chancellor and council member Leonie Clyne (pictured) said the mentorship program has been designed to encourage and promote women's participation in leadership roles, both within the University and throughout the wider community.

"Flinders is very keen to promote and support women, and women in leadership is certainly a very important element of that," Ms Clyne said.

"In general there's still a long way to go for women in higher positions but through the initiatives of Flinders, women are being supported to take on and succeeded in leadership roles," she said.

"It's pleasing to see the University moving in this direction and encouraging women to take on leadership positions, and the Vice-Chancellor is very conscious that there is equity for women and their potential within the University."

Ms Clyne, who is the founder and Managing Director of corporate clothing company Angus Clyne, said the Women in Leadership Program also provided an opportunity for Flinders graduates to meet current staff and keep abreast of University news.

"The internal members of staff and academics can mix and get to know external members, often with a common thread of being Flinders graduates, and that's very important," Ms Clyne said.

"At our September lunch, for example, we discussed the strategic direction of the University and it was encouraging to see both internal and external members of the University stimulating debate and discussion about our future."

Given the success of the program in its first year, Ms Clyne said it was expected the initiative would now become an integral part of the University's activities.

"All functions have been very well attended and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive," she said.

"The women who have attended said they have gained a wealth of information, support and advice so there is certainly a real need for programs like this, both in the University and beyond."

Emily Charrison



Alumni put their thoughts on the record

Flinders alumni have plenty of goodwill towards their University, and to tap directly into their feelings and take advantage of their expertise, two 'Think Tanks' were run in May this year by the board of the Karmel Endowment Fund.

Chair of the board and prominent local businessman, Dr Roger Sexton (pictured), led the Think Tanks, which took the shape of informal conversations with two groups of alumni, one senior and one younger.

The major themes that emerged from the discussions included the need to convey clearly the reasons for, and benefits of, making donations to the University, as well as the need to find new ways to build and strengthen a sense of involvement between Flinders, its graduates and the community.

Dr Sexton said the board had asked the Think Tank contributors for "frank opinions and bold suggestions" and that these had been freely given.

Dr Sexton said the sessions resulted in a wealth of information and valuable advice that would have both strategic and immediate consequences.

"We have been given new ideas that will help to guide the character of our fundraising, and which will also shape the nature of activities that seek to involve our graduates," Dr Sexton said.

"Building on a sense of connectedness is a prime focus. The University is undertaking some extraordinary research and, with Tonsley Park and other initiatives, is entering a dynamic phase in which we very much want our alumni to be actively engaged."

Ms Chris Jenner, Head of Development and Alumni Relations, said that with the aim of making it easier for graduates to retain a sense of community with the University, increasing use is being made of social media, notably Twitter, in addition to *Encounter* and the quarterly *e.NCOUNTER*.

"We're doing a lot more communication-wise than we've done before," Ms Jenner said.



Drought lessons still to be learned

Professor Craig Simmons (pictured) and some of his colleagues in the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT) use a term to describe the public perception of water issues: the hydro-*illogical* cycle.

It is a play on hydrological cycle, the process of evaporation, condensation and precipitation which characterises the water cycle and that is taught to first-year hydrology students.

“The hydro-illogical cycle is: drought leads to awareness, leads to concern, leads to panic. And the minute it rains, the next bit is apathy,” Professor Simmons, Director of the NCGRT and recently appointed as the inaugural Schultz Chair in the Environment at Flinders, said.

“Many of my colleagues and I really do think we’re now in the apathetic part of the cycle,” he said.

“Apart from the acute issues of coal seam gas and mining and their impacts on water, and the Murray Darling Basin Plan, the rest of the general water security issue – the chronic issue – has largely vanished from the public domain.”

Pointing to the absence of water issues from the media since the drought broke last year, Professor Simmons said such apathy was both worrying and puzzling, given the abundant data on drought and flood cycles in Australia, as well population growth statistics.

“It is the way our climate works. Whether or not we believe in climate change or climate variability or if we’re sceptical about climate change, just look at the last 200 years of drought data. We have had several droughts each century that are decadal in length. That’s part of what happens. Another drought is coming: it’s a matter of when, not if.

“And the population could nearly double by 2056. Yet, in the last drought, 70 per cent of our country was already living under some major form of water restrictions.”

He believes the nation as a whole has not adequately reflected on the lessons of the most recent drought and that fundamental questions remain: will there be enough water in future? What are the water sources? Are we prepared for the next drought?

It is one of the reasons Professor Simmons is supportive of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

He commends the federal government for persisting with the Plan – “it’s not straightforward” – in the face of objections and resistance from some quarters.

“The idea of a Plan is a good one. If you start from the point of view that the Murray Darling Basin should be thought about as an integrated water source that crosses states, thinking about it as a holistic water resource makes sense,” he said.

“In a way, I see the Plan as a methodology or as an instrument for water reform, which is always a good thing because it means water is on the agenda. Water reform is critical in the Murray - Darling Basin.”

The consideration of groundwater as part of the agenda is essential.

The number of bores sunk and the amount of groundwater extracted grew significantly during the last drought, when people began to seek alternative sources of water as the surface water taps were being turned off.

Among its many projects, the NCGRT is currently working on the National Strategic Plan for Groundwater which will identify the role of groundwater as one of the sources available to policymakers to meet society’s growing thirst.

Professor Simmons envisages desalinated water will play a part, too. But while technological advances promise to make ‘desal’ water much more affordable in coming years, he cautions against storing all of our hope in it as the solution to our water problems.

“One solution will never be a silver bullet for water strategy,” he said.

“One has to weigh up not just the economics but the CO2, energy, environmental impacts. The challenge for us is to look at the different supplies and sources of water and determine what an optimal mix may look like.”

Professor Simmons’ appointment as the inaugural, endowed Schultz Chair in the Environment was made possible through the D H Schultz Bequest, established through the generous gift to Flinders by the late Donald Herbert Schultz for “scientific study and research into the environment and ecology of South Australia with the intent that the information and knowledge so gained shall be applied to or made available for the preservation of the environment and ecology of South Australia and elsewhere”.

Photo: Ashton Claridge

Strategic thinking for Flinders future

It is now six months since I joined Flinders University. I came from the Scottish Government via the University of the West of Scotland to take up the recently established role of Vice-President (Strategy and Planning). The principal function of the role is to lead the University's strategic development.

It is an important time for the University and a privilege for me to take up this role at this point in our history. Flinders must position itself in the right way to continue to be a successful and relevant place of learning and research, drawing on its rich past to continue to serve our learners and communities. The University has a strategic plan for 2010 through to 2014 – *Inspiring Flinders Future*. I am keen to ensure that as we plan to celebrate 50 years that we remain true to the aspirations of our first Vice-Chancellor, Peter Karmel, to “experiment and experiment bravely”. Your input will be valuable as I consult widely.

My role includes overseeing the operations of Marketing and Communications. As such my experience and interest in Alumni and Development will help define more clearly the first key strategy for the University, *building supportive communities*. I have learned that our commitment to the Flinders social and regional mission is as strong as ever. The importance we place

on the quality of our learning experience in helping individuals to transform their lives is similarly undimmed. I recently attended a lunch with several of the University's female alumni who talked movingly about how Flinders gave them the freedom to explore and was life-changing – strong testimony to the power of learning. And with your help we will keep this momentum going.

Universities play a key role at the heart of social and economic advancement in an increasingly complex, fast-changing world. There are many movements in our external environment which impact on universities across the world and throughout Australia. Government and employers demand more graduates and different skills to support new industries. Universities have grown very quickly and are trying to reconcile a mass higher education system with maintaining the quality and academic standards students have a right to expect.

Increasingly diverse students, including those from over 90 different countries at Flinders, want access to learning at a place and time that suits them and 21st century spaces in which to learn. Migration and ageing populations, the rapid growth of new world economies, and the global financial crisis are all circumstances to which universities must respond and adapt.

The arrival of new technologies has led to an unprecedented growth in online learning, provided by prestigious universities such as Melbourne and Harvard as well as private organisations. These courses are available very cheaply, often free, to students across the world and universities need to decide how much of this kind of learning they provide and be clear to students and society what it is that we do which is different and better.

Flinders is well-placed to respond to all of these challenges and, for our University, the more challenging the better. So for me it is a fascinating time to arrive in South Australia and help Flinders build on its proud past and reach into an increasingly unknown and fast-changing future. I look forward to meeting you there!

Gill Troup
Vice-President (Strategy and Planning)





Flinders adds to understanding the Asian Century

Photo: Nhu-Y Nguyen

Flinders University has sharpened its focus on the geopolitics of the United States and Asia with the establishment of a specialist research centre just as the Federal Government underscores the importance of the same area in its foreign relations.

The launch of The Centre for United States and Asia Policy Studies (CUSAPS) at Flinders came just days ahead of the publication in Canberra of the *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper, a major policy paper that will influence the Federal Government's foreign policy stance for decades to come.

CUSAPS Director (Asia), Professor Malcolm Cook (pictured), said the timing of the two initiatives could not have been more fortuitous.

"The new Centre, as with the White Paper, has been established to understand how Australia will be affected and can help shape its economic and strategic future," Professor Cook told *Encounter*.

"This future will be primarily shaped by Australia's relations both with the United States and Asia's major powers and the relationships between the United States and these Asian powers," he said.

"Most research centres focus on either US-Australia relations or Australia-Asia relations. CUSAPS has the ambitious goal of analysing both and the interaction between them. To effectively contribute to the national and international discussion of the future of Asia and Australia demands no less."

CUSAPS will have five principal areas of policy interest:

- Asia's changing strategic landscape,
- Australian and US security and defence policy and its links to other US allies in the region,
- Australia's economic relationships with Asia and the United States in the areas of trade, development, investment, and the development of treaty arrangements
- Issues related to national and transnational governance, politics and political processes relevant to the region, and
- Specific policy analysis with focus on energy, water, pollution, and other environmental issues of relevance to the region.

"Understanding these complex issues and relationships is integral to the future success of Australia's engagement with the major players on the world stage and we look forward to CUSAPS bringing a unique and effective perspective to that discussion," Professor Cook said.

CUSAPS was launched in October with a workshop - *The rules of the game in a rising Asia* – which attracted Australian and international academics to Adelaide.

CUSAPS Director (United States), Professor Don DeBats, said the growing influence of China in world affairs is a significant development for policy makers around the world.

"The central message of President Obama's vision of America's role in Asia, as set out in his speech in Canberra, is perfectly clear: the US will continue to be a major player in the region. There are economic and strategic rules of the game and China, like all other nations, needs to live by them if the potential for future conflict is to be reduced. What is not nearly so clear is precisely what that American presence will be and what these rules are," Professor DeBats said.

The Americans are coming

Flinders hosted the first two scholars from the United States to occupy the Fulbright Flinders Distinguished Chair in American Political Science which was awarded by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission to the University for the period 2011-2016.

Professor Howard Schweber from The University of Wisconsin, Madison, researched the differences between American and Australian political cultures, particularly regarding constitutional politics. A keen observer of the US Presidential race, Professor Schweber said that "American politics has been my favourite spectator sport since I was about 14 years old – there is nothing I enjoy more, purely as a fan, than a good hotly contested primary race as this one is, it's a real doozy".

Speaking in March at a relatively early stage of the Republican campaign to select a nominee to challenge President Obama, Professor Schweber identified Mitt Romney as someone voters could imagine in the White House.

"Romney is trying to run as the grown-up in the room. He looks statesman-like, he is capable of projecting as someone you could plausibly imagine in the White House meeting the ambassador from France or a high level delegation. Frankly, in my heart of hearts, I don't think that even people who support Newt Gingrich can imagine him in that role," Professor Schweber said.

Professor Malcolm Feeley, who lectures and researches in the Law School at the University of California, Berkeley, followed Professor Schweber to Flinders and gained an Australian perspective on the role that private contractors play in provision of such State functions as the operation of prisons and detention centres.

Peter Gill

The Accelerating Universe

The Investigator Lecture is Flinders' major public lecture of the year, drawing its inspiration from Matthew Flinders' ship, the *Investigator*, as a metaphor embodying the University's ideals – innovation, forward thinking and the importance of providing intellectual space.

Before a sold out audience on the Bedford Park campus, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Physics, Dr Brian Schmidt (pictured) from the High-z Supernova Search Team at the Australian National University delivered an extended version of his Nobel Lecture.

In 1998 two separate teams working on this project, using different data, arrived at almost identical conclusions simultaneously, and without knowledge of each other's results. They traced back the expansion of the universe over billions of years and discovered that it was accelerating, a startling discovery that suggests that more than 70 per cent of the cosmos is contained in a previously unknown form of matter, called dark energy.

The observations of the groups could mean one of three things: first, the universe is accelerating, and is accelerated by some unknown type of matter that is spread throughout the cosmos; second, general relativity is as sacred as anything in physics, but it may be wrong, and if general relativity is wrong, so are our conclusions; third, we are simply wrong and have been fooled by supernovae into believing the universe is accelerating.

Dr Schmidt described this discovery and explained how astronomers have used observations to trace our universe's history back more than 13 billion years, leading them to ponder the ultimate fate of the cosmos.

Dr Schmidt with two other physicists received the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the universe through observations of distant supernovae. This discovery has helped to unveil a universe that to a large extent is unknown to science.

For almost a century, the universe has been known to be expanding as a consequence of the Big Bang about 14 billion years ago. The discovery that this expansion is accelerating is astounding, and if it continues to accelerate, the universe will end in ice.



Photo: Mike Lim

He pointed to dark energy as the future of the universe, but he could not define dark energy as it passed through our detectors undetected. "Eventually the universe will expand so quickly" Dr Schmidt said, "that light itself cannot go from places we can see now and then reach us." As an example, Dr Schmidt said that a photon seen today in a distant galaxy will never reach us.

His conclusion: "...that unless dark energy goes away, the universe will at an ever increasing rate expand and fade away."

After the lecture, those present enjoyed an opportunity to speak informally with Brian Schmidt, asking questions and pursuing many of the themes he had explored.

The 2012 Investigator Lecture is available on-line at http://mtu.flinders.edu.au/events/Investigator_Lecture2012.cfm

Geoff Sauer



Christmas Island seachange

“At dusk each night, as the fresh tuna sizzles on the barbecue and the sun sets over the vast Indian Ocean again, we hear the sombre sound of the Muslim call to prayer echo up from the Malay Kampong village mosque at Flying Fish Cove.”

This exotic, idyllic setting could easily be any one of a number of favourite South-East Asian tourist destinations.

It is, in fact, Australia – Christmas Island, to be exact, described by Flinders graduates Sally (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, 1993) and Mark Trenorden (Bachelor of Science (Hons) in meteorology and oceanography, 1989) as “a spectacular rock”, 20 kilometres long, eight kilometres wide and 500 kilometres south of Jakarta.



L-R Jarvis, Mark, Sally and Charlie Trenorden

The Trenordens have lived on Christmas Island since February 2011, when they left Brisbane “hungry for a seachange” and wanting to break up “the suburban nature” of their sons’ childhoods.

With 80 kilometres of coastline and covered by rainforest and excellent schools, Christmas Island met the Trenordens’ criteria. Sally, nee Nicholas, was also keen for the added stimulation and challenge of working in rural general practice.

“I had worked there for a six-week locum position in September 2009 and another in July 2010, so we had an association and familiarity with the place,” she said.

She is now senior medical officer and one of three doctors at Christmas Island Hospital.

“My work day begins at 8am and involves dealing with a unique mix of booked patients like at any general practice, patients presenting via our emergency department as well as managing in-patients,” she said.

“I could see between 10 and 20 patients per day. Some could be a little unwell and some could be critically unwell. The case mix could be chronic disease right through to appendicitis, motor vehicle accidents and psychiatric emergencies.

“I have seen many interesting presentations such as TB, typhoid and ciguatera poisoning that I definitely wouldn’t have seen in suburban general practice in Brisbane.

“We use the Royal Flying Doctor Service for medical evacuations, which can take up to 48 hours at times. Needless to say, there can be some nail-biting moments.”

In light of Sally’s onerous regular 24-hour on-call and emergency responsibilities, the Trenordens decided that Mark, a forecaster with the Bureau of Meteorology, would take a break from his regular day job to care for their sons Charlie, 12, and Jarvis, 10.

In addition to helping to coach the kids in cricket and football, Mark helps with maths teaching at the local school and is on the local cinema committee.

However, it’s his new role as hunter-gatherer that he is relishing most. Upon their arrival, the family bought a new boat which not only provides visiting family and friends with “world class tours of the island” but serves as a reliable supplier of food.

“Mark will regularly catch up five or six fish per week: pelagic fish, wahoo and yellowfin tuna are the normal catch of the day, usually in the 10 to 15 kilograms range, which keeps the freezer well-stocked for family meals,” Sally said.

Arguably best known for its detention centre for asylum seekers travelling by boat from Indonesia or as the site of a substantial phosphate mine, Christmas Island has a “regular” population of around 2000: 60 per cent of whom are of Chinese descent, 20 per cent of Malay-descent and 20 per cent Caucasian.

“We all live on this remote place together, living harmoniously, so there is a really rich sense of community. There always seems to be a cultural concert or markets or an art show happening,” Mark said.

“The place isn’t without its quirky elements, though. I’ve seen a red crab walking in the frozen food aisle at the supermarket. We’ve learnt to drink our ‘flat whites’ out of a plastic bag. And we’ve also grown accustomed to paying \$15 for a lettuce!”

Vincent Ciccarello

Helping physics research come true



Photo: Ashton Claridge

Mike Mellow's work history boasts just two jobs – a brief stint in the car industry followed by almost 41 years as a technician in the Physical Sciences workshop at Flinders.

Coming to the University in 1971 at the age of 25, Mike joined a team of 12 technicians in the "pristine" workshop during the heyday of plasma physics at Flinders.

Most of the technicians' efforts were dedicated to providing custom-made components and instruments for researchers in physics and, to a lesser degree, chemistry.

Mike (pictured) said that the work of the technicians frequently involved a substantial amount of R&D, as well as a high degree of ingenuity.

"One of the redeeming features about the place in those days was that they gave us a lot of leeway and a lot of time to do a very good job," he said.

"And you'd soon know if a machine wasn't up to scratch – it would come back."

The technicians, who boasted a range of trade qualifications, operated a full repertoire of heavy milling machines and lathes as well as possessing the welding skills needed to produce instruments and equipment to a high degree of precision. Vacuum chambers were a specialty, Mike said.

While some of the equipment manufactured in-house, including two large spectrometers, is still in service on campus, other items have found a second life in locations that include the Australian

National University and University of Technology Sydney.

Some Flinders-made equipment even found its way to laboratories in the United States, defying Mike's doubts that the Americans would ever put the instruments back together after they had been disassembled for shipping.

"They managed it, and I take my hat off to them," he said.

Mike, who managed the workshop from 1992 until he handed over at the end of last year, said another steep learning curve came in 2000 when the workshop became responsible for providing services to Earth Sciences. It was a time when the School was engaged in extensive ocean surveys and monitoring, and the workshop branched out into completely new types of work related to the research vessels and their moorings.

More recently, electronics technicians in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences have been amalgamated into the workshop.

In the past few years, Mike said that most major items of instrumentation for physics research have been imported, often from overseas, and numbers of staff in the workshop have dwindled, mostly through natural attrition. Unlike many Australian universities, though, Flinders has retained its facilities, and Mike said the three remaining mechanical technicians will have plenty of work in terms of maintenance and repair.

Mike's retirement in September this year came "six weeks shy" of 41 years in the job.

"It's been hard work, and I couldn't have done it without the support of my colleagues, that's for sure," he said.

"It's made for a very interesting working life."



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Flinders strengthens its alumni

Building supportive communities is one of the foundation strategies in the University's Strategic Plan, *Inspiring Flinders Future*. Flinders values highly its alumni and community relationships which were further extended with a diverse range of events and sponsorship initiatives in 2012.

Flinders University appreciates and acknowledges the generosity of donors to the Karmel Endowment Fund in 2012

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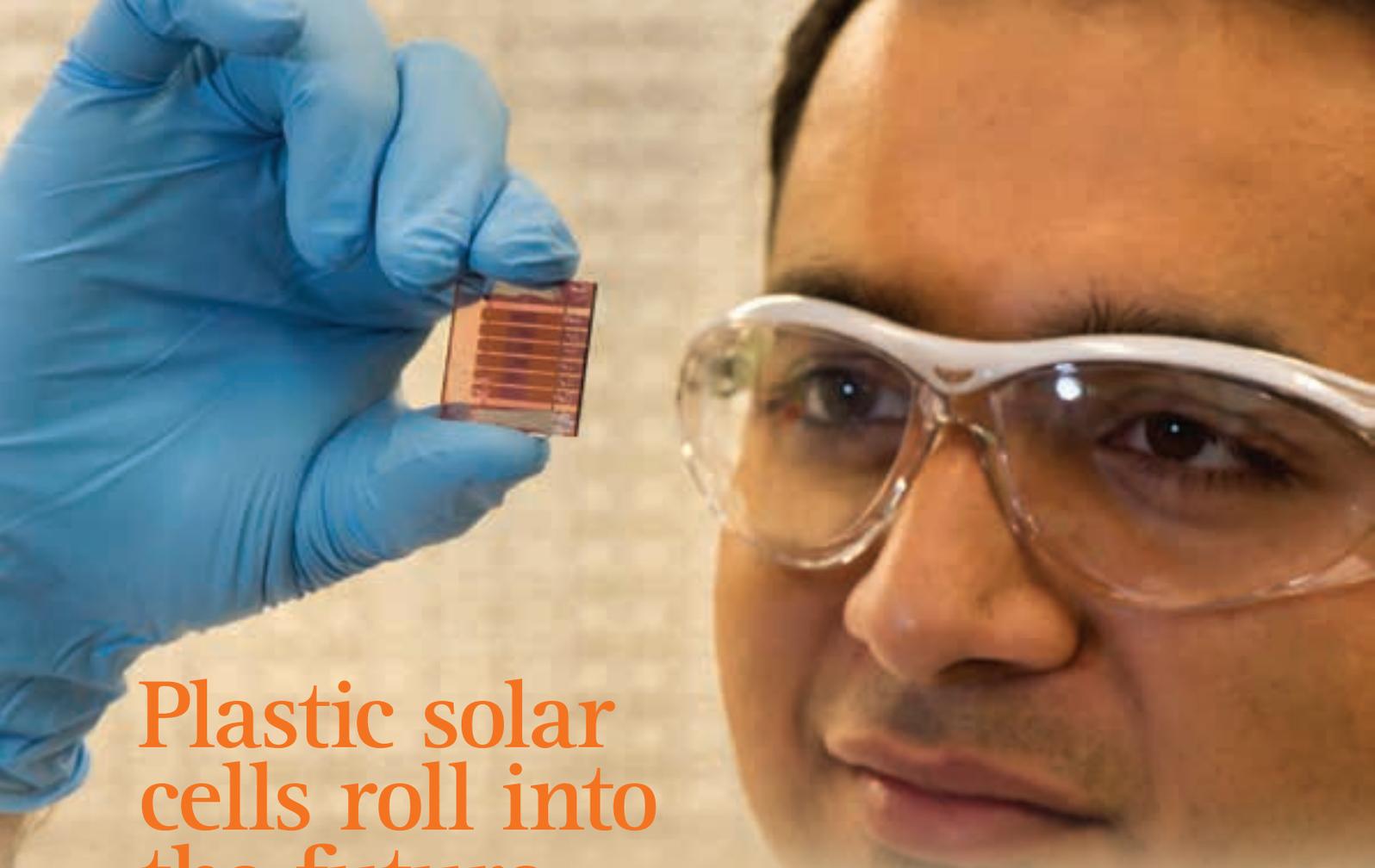
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Photos:

1. Flinders creative writer, Chloé Eckert, won the *State Theatre Company Young Playwright of the Year Award* for her perceptive and poignant play, *Sage*, which explored issues of mental health and suicide. A number of alumni attended STC opening night performances.
2. Fringe performer Barry Morgan with Law, Drama and Screen Studies student Carla Hardie at the Flinders' Alumni Happy Hour at the Fringe Club.
3. Albard Khan and Imam Mulyardi at a reception for graduating international students.
4. Sculptor Yoshin Ogata from Japan and Dr Corinne Steeb at the Adelaide Hills International Sculpture Symposium.
5. Dr Tom Gleghorn at the exhibition in May of his works that marked the award of an honorary doctorate to the distinguished artist and teacher.
6. 'Matthew Flinders' (*aka* drama student Andrew Thomas) shows his dancing style at the Macclesfield Business and Tourism's ABBA night.
7. Emeritus Professor Ross Kalucy quizzed Dr Brian Schmidt on the expanding universe after he delivered the 2012 Investigator Lecture to a capacity crowd of alumni and guests.
8. At the inaugural Bupa Scholarships presentation: (L-R) Professor Jane Scott, Professor Paul Worley, Emma Tonkin (Bupa Health & Wellness Scholarship recipient), Lisa Diamond (Bupa Indigenous Health Scholarship recipient), Daniel Gallagher (Bupa), Debra Webb (Bupa), Associate Professor Tim Neild.



Plastic solar cells roll into the future

Photo: Ashton Claridge

A Flinders University researcher has been developing a cheaper and faster way of making large-scale plastic solar cells using a lamination technique, paving the way for a lucrative new clean energy industry.

The novel method, developed by Flinders PhD candidate Anirudh Sharma (pictured), is a promising alternative to the expensive fabrication techniques which are currently used in the renewable energy sector, and would make the commercialisation of plastic solar cell technology more viable.

While plastic solar cells have been researched for the past 15 years, Mr Sharma said the current fabrication process, which involves vacuum conditions, was still relatively expensive and time-intensive for large-scale production compared to his lamination technique.

“In the conventional method of fabricating plastic solar cells you have to deposit various materials sequentially on top of each other in a sandwich structure but over time the materials intermix, leading to device degradation,” Mr Sharma, based in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, said.

“However my technique involves deposition of materials on two different electrically conductive surfaces, followed by lamination. It gives better control over the material intermixing and thus can give more stable and better performing devices,” he said.

“The entire lamination process is roll-to-roll compatible, which means that the lamination technique could be integrated with printing machines similar to newspaper printers. Therefore the materials can be deposited by printing and devices can be fabricated by lamination at the same time, making the entire process scalable at relatively much lower costs.

“This is a much cheaper way of fabricating solar cells because you can make a large number of devices in a very short space of time, and this method of self-encapsulation can potentially help improve the life-span of the device as well.”

Mr Sharma said plastic solar cells were a cheaper and more sustainable form of renewable energy compared with silicon-based devices, which currently dominate the industry.

“For the past 50 years, the traditional solar panels which you see on the rooftops of houses have been made from silicon but the problem is these cells are very expensive to produce because silicon requires excessive amounts of energy to purify.

“Plastic solar cells, on the other hand, are really light and flexible so they can be used to coat a whole range of different surfaces – for example are portable enough to put on day to day carry bags and even camping tents – and plastic itself is cheap as chips.

“Building developers are already looking at integrating plastic solar cells with the latest building designs by using plastic solar cell-coated window panes for new buildings so this technology will definitely replace silicon in the very near future.

“And my research shows real promise for a faster, more cost-effective way of making plastic cells.”

Mr Sharma was one of eight finalists in Flinders University’s 2012 Three Minute Thesis competition.

The transnational competition encourages PhD students to present a compelling three-minute oration on their thesis topic and its significance in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

Emily Charrison

A graduate in life skills

Not many people can lay claim to being an environmental scientist, pastry chef and aid worker in the same place and time – but Flinders University graduate Emi Kato (pictured) can.

When the devastating earthquake and tsunami hit Japan in March 2011, killing more than 15,000 people and destroying tens of thousands of homes, Ms Kato used her qualifications in environmental science and baking to help with the clean-up and run a café for those affected by the disaster.

Born and raised in Japan, Ms Kato graduated from Flinders with an environmental science degree in 2006 before landing a job at Golder Associates, an Adelaide-based international environmental consultancy firm.

She worked there for two years then decided to return to her birth country to fulfil her dream of becoming a professional pastry chef.

“Pastry baking is something I’d always been interested in and I thought I might regret it if I didn’t pursue it properly,” the 28-year-old said.

“So I asked Golder and they were kind enough to give me a year off to study in Japan.”

Returning to Adelaide in 2010, Ms Kato resumed her job at the firm until news broke of the Japanese tsunami disaster, which struck the north coast of Japan on March 11, 2011.

“I didn’t know anyone from the affected prefectures but at that point I just wanted to help,” she recalls.

“When I heard they were looking for translators I didn’t think twice, I just went.

“There was an influx of volunteers from overseas – they helped scrape up the mud, pick up the debris and distribute food but they all needed to communicate with the locals so that’s where I came in.

“My task was to build a bridge between the people who came to help and the people who were affected, and because there were lots of aftershocks and contaminated sludge from the tsunami it was my duty to communicate those dangers.”

Since that first volunteer stint with not-for-profit aid agency CRASH Japan, Ms Kato has used her experience in environmental science to provide soil analysis to farmers, and her patisserie skills to run a café for a local church ministry in the Miyagi Prefecture.

“After three weeks in Japan I came back to Adelaide and asked my company if they could help.

“The farmland was contaminated from all the sludge and the farmers were very worried about heavy metals on the land so my company funded soil tests, which I helped to do.

“Once I finished that job I went to run a café for a local church ministry – their church got washed away in the tsunami so they were using the profits from the café to save for their new church building.



“They also used a lot of the money from the café to hold events for people who had been left homeless and were living in temporary housing; we put on concerts, held craft days and invited all the kids in the area to bake sweet treats.

“Despite all the sadness and devastation there was a great sense of community spirit.”

Ms Kato has just been offered another humanitarian position with the Nozomi (Hope) Centre, and plans to stay in Japan indefinitely.

“I can’t understand the pain or loss of these people but I just want to be there for them.

“There’s still so much to do and the locals really appreciate it when people come to help out because to them it shows they’re not forgotten.

“On a personal level, it’s quite amazing to think environmental science and pastry baking could ever come in handy in a certain place but I’m very thankful I’ve been able to help.”

Emily Charrison



Advantage SA CEO Karen Raffan (left), Professor John Halsey and Ms Diané Ranck with one of the awards

Photo: Nhu-Y Nguyen

Flinders finds a place in country communities

With an ever-growing presence and profile in regional and rural South Australia, it made good sense for Flinders to take on the sponsorship of the Education category in the Advantage SA Regional Awards.

The University took up the sponsorship this year, participating in the selection process and presentation of the awards at seven ceremonies around the State, at Port Lincoln, Mount Barker, the Barossa, Renmark, Moonta Bay, Port Augusta and Mount Gambier.

Ms Diané Ranck, Director of the Marketing and Communications Office, said that with the University's innovative educational programs extending to many of the State's regions, it was a natural fit for Flinders to participate in recognising the achievements of inspirational South Australian educators.

Ms Ranck said the awards showcased achievements across an extraordinary range of endeavour.

"It was a revelation to be made aware of the amazing work of so many rural people in fields from small business to tourism, and it gave me a great sense of pride to know that Flinders is also contributing to many of these communities," she said.

The University's Rural Clinical School operates in several regional areas, and Flinders teaches courses in Nursing and Midwifery from its campus in Renmark. Growing numbers of student teachers from the University's School of Education are also undertaking placements in rural and remote schools.

"The University is also playing a role in rural communities through its contribution to research and policy advice in areas such as sustainability and well-being," Ms Ranck said.

Professor John Halsey, the Sidney Myer Chair of Rural Education and Communities, who together with Ms Ranck represented the University on the judging panel, is a keen supporter of the University's involvement.

"It's very important that achievements within our rural communities, not only in education but right across all fields of endeavour, should be encouraged and promoted," Professor Halsey said.

"Much of what happens in country towns and communities is necessarily on a small scale, but it is precisely the flow-on effects from such activities that makes and keeps these communities viable.

"Dedicated individuals can, and do, make a huge difference."

Education remains a core issue for the regions, Professor Halsey said, with many rural schools continuing to face the challenge of attracting and retaining high-quality teaching staff and leaders.

While welcoming the additional funding for rural schools recommended by the Gonski Review of School Funding in August this year, Professor Halsey is advocating a program of fully funded semester-length placements in country schools for students from teacher training programs.

"Providing a real choice for pre-service teachers and aspiring leaders to live, learn and work in a rural community before they graduate will advance one of the foundation pillars of Australia – vibrant productive rural communities," Professor Halsey said.

"It's worth reminding ourselves that sustainable rural communities are vital to Australia's wider viability in terms of food production and provision of other basic resources, and if rural schools are not properly supported, the survival of such communities is at risk."

Historian of the Year

Eric Richards has a passion for unlocking the secrets of the past.

“I’ve always had an unquenchable thirst for the past, and even more for explaining the past,” the Emeritus Professor of History at Flinders University said.

“History contains all human experience – it can explain where we’ve come from and in some ways it gives us an insight into the future.”

Having dedicated more than 40 years to the discipline, it is no surprise that Professor Richards has now been named South Australia’s first-ever Historian of the Year.

Professor Richards (pictured) received the inaugural honour – awarded by the History Council of South Australia in August – for his significant contributions to historical knowledge at the local, national and international levels.

“I was tickled pink, and extremely surprised of course,” he said of the prestigious accolade.

Born in Wales, Professor Richards migrated to Australia in 1964 as a “Ten Pound Pom” and joined Flinders in 1972, where he specialised in economic and social history until his formal retirement earlier this year.

In 1986 Professor Richards edited the landmark Social History volume of the *Flinders History of South Australia* – a work which remains a key reference today.

Adding to his remarkable career, in 2008 he published *Destination Australia* – a national history of migration to Australia over the course of the 20th century which has become the standard reference on the topic – following on from his 2004 study of emigration from the British Isles since 1600, entitled *Britannia’s Children*.



Internationally, Professor Richards is best known for his extensive published works on the depopulation of the Scottish Highlands in the 18th and 19th centuries, including *The Highland Clearances: People, Landlords and Rural Turmoil*, which was published in 2008 and is currently being revised for its fourth edition.

In 2014 he will be spending four months as the Carnegie Trust Centenary Professor at the Centre for History, part of the new University of the Highlands and Islands in East Sutherland, where he will continue his ground-breaking work on the history of the Highlands.

Closer to home, Professor Richards has invested significant research exploring “the fundamental origins of the shift of people from the land to the cities”, which he said was one of the greatest evolutions in modern times.

“More than 50 per cent of the world’s population now live in urban places and people everywhere are on the move, which has momentous political and demographic consequences,” he said.

“Its historical origins are to be located in the 18th century British Isles but it’s a generic phenomenon which affects all modern societies and we need to know much more about the underlying dynamics of this great transformation of humanity.”

Emily Charrison



Barrister Kevin Borick QC (left) addresses the Supreme Court presided over by Justice Gray

Photo: David Worswick

Flinders holds Court

Commemorations of the Flinders Law School’s 20th anniversary in 2012 included a rare sitting by the Supreme Court on campus with Justice Tom Gray considering a challenge to compulsory voting at elections by Adelaide man Anders Holmdahl. The University’s Moot

Court – modelled to look like a courtroom and a key facility for training law students – became a real court for the day and gave students and the public an insight into the judicial process at work. Given the importance of the issue and widespread public and media interest, Justice Gray allowed television networks to film the proceedings, a first for South Australia’s media.

Brookman tag team reflects on Flinders role



Geordie and Rob Brookman

Photo: Kris Washusen

Rob Brookman, Chief Executive Officer of the State Theatre Company of South Australia (STSCA) recalls how, in the early 1970s, South Australia's universities were enmeshed in the state's theatre scene.

The Adelaide Festival Theatre didn't exist and the 'professional' STSCA was still in its infancy.

It operated in parallel with the vibrant student and graduate drama societies centred on the University of Adelaide's Union Hall, on the one hand, and with the restless independent theatre groups coming out of the near-new Flinders University on the other.

"My theatre experiences were gained messing around in student theatre, in the University of Adelaide Dramatic Society, which became my preoccupation," Rob said.

"Happily I was able to skate my way through a BA on the side. I jokingly say I majored in student theatre," he said.

"There were huge opportunities back then and it was very much a hotbed on campus at that time.

"There was a seamlessness between the different elements of the theatre scene generally. Interestingly, we as the amateurs on campus at Adelaide joined forces with the training professionals from Flinders.

"The Flinders students were supposed to not do anything outside Flinders at all, they were strictly forbidden.

"But they were rebellious times, so we actually put together a double bill of plays by Günter Grass which got the Flinders guys into dreadful strife."

Forty years on, Rob is one of Australia's leading arts identities: among other things, Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival of Arts and New Zealand International Festival of Arts; General Manager of Sydney Theatre Company (11 years); and, in addition to co-founding it, Artistic Director of the extraordinarily successful world music festival, WOMADelaide.

Since March 2012, Rob has been at the helm of STSCA where he has a new, and somewhat less controversial, relationship with Flinders.

The University is not only a sponsor of the company but has produced scores of graduates in drama, creative writing, marketing and tourism who've passed through STSCA's doors in one capacity or another.

One of them is Rob's son, Geordie, the company's Artistic Director.

Since graduating from Flinders University Drama Centre in 2001, Geordie has directed plays around Australia, the UK and Asia, often with his peers.

"I've got a strangely high hit rate from my year group of people who are still in the industry," Geordie said.

"Caleb Lewis is a playwright; Cameron Goodall, a wonderful actor, was in the year above me; Katherine Fyffe is in the (theatre collective) Border Project. It was a rich generation which came through within three or four years of each other," he said.

Indeed, Caleb Lewis's play, *Maggie Stone*, commissioned by the company, will receive its premiere in 2013; and Cameron Goodall will appear in *Hedda Gabler*. Both will be directed by Geordie.

Coincidence? Only partly, it seems.

"The genius of the Flinders course is that it is specific and cohesive, so that you get strong groups of graduates coming out, not only deciding that they want to work but they want to make work from the ground up – and do it together," Geordie said.

"So you have a series of companies – Troupe, Red Shed, Brink, and Border Project – all coming out of Flinders over the decades."

Rob nods in agreement.

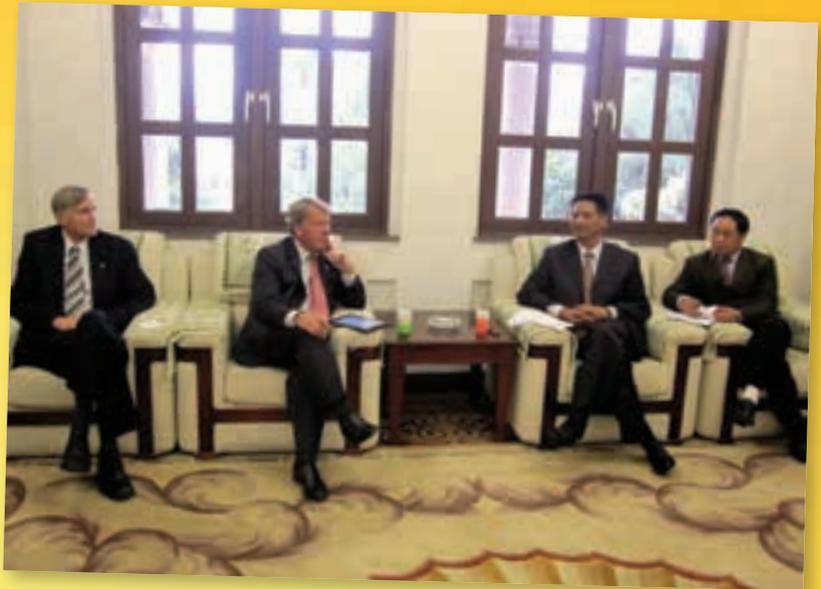
"Interestingly, the waves of Flinders students coming out and forming their own independent groups, that started right back in the '70s. There was a company called Legerdemain that formed around 1974. That was one of the first crops of Flinders graduates who came out and said, 'What next?'" Rob said.

He has no doubts about the continuing connections between the University and theatre in South Australia.

"The relationship between the humanities, the arts and culture in their broadest sense, as well as developing models of expansive thinking, is one of the most valuable things about the university," Rob said.

"I'm interested that there are clear indications – certainly on the Flinders campus under Professor Richard Maltby and with the appointment of someone like Julian Meyrick (as Professor of Creative Arts) – that the University feels the necessity to engage with the world in a broader way."

More firsts for Flinders in China



The Chancellor, Mr Stephen Gerlach and Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber headed a party of senior University staff on a recent trip to China, where they officiated at the largest-ever Flinders graduation ceremony in China and attended a range of functions.

(L-R) Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber and Chancellor Mr Stephan Gerlach with Yunnan University President Professor He Tianchun and Vice President International Affairs Professor Xiao Xian

On the night before the 2012 graduation at Nankai University in Tianjin, more than 350 graduands and alumni attended a special reception. At the ceremony, 262 graduates received the Master of Arts in International Relations (Economics and Trade) and 145 the Master of Hospital Administration.



Flinders executive staff and academics with Nankai MHA graduates

Two Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented during the reception, one to Zhang Yimou (MHA 2008), Director of the Tianjin Municipal Education Commission, for significant contributions to the advancement of management education for health professionals in China, and one to Gong Renhai (MAIRET 2002), First Secretary of Bureau of Fair Trade for Imports and Exports in China's Ministry of Commerce, for significant contributions to Chinese international economic and trade relations.

And for the first time, Flinders held an event in Kunming, with 60 alumni from the two Masters programs attending a dinner hosted by the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor.

The first Yunnan University-Flinders University Symposium on *Co-operation Opportunities and Challenges: ASEAN, China, and Australia* was held at Yunnan University, Kunming on 31 October. The symposium brought together academic staff from both universities to explore the multiple relationships between Australia, China and ASEAN. The Dean of the School of International Studies, Professor Malcolm Cook, lecturers Associate Professor Kurt Andressen and Mr Richard Leaver and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Dean Forbes all presented papers at the symposium.



Professor Malcolm Cook presenting in Yunnan University

In another first for Flinders, the Chancellor presented degrees to 39 graduates at a ceremony in Hong Kong. The recipients were the first cohort of students from two programs, the Bachelor of Commerce and the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Digital Media), which are offered in conjunction with the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Charles Gent



A serendipitous garden: Matthew

Often scientific discoveries are seen as serendipitous. For example, the discoveries of penicillin, saccharin, teflon, x-rays and insulin all came about through serendipity or luck or chance.

The origins of the Flinders Investigator Garden can be traced to what might be considered a serendipitous question about plasma fusion physics in the Southern Hemisphere asked many years ago at Princeton University.

Now retired from Flinders, Lance McCarthy was undertaking his PhD at Princeton when he asked the question, the answer to which was to lead his taking up an academic appointment here. The answer to the question was that Max Brennan had done postdoctoral work at Princeton and was at a new university in Australia. The university, of course, was Flinders, and Max Brennan was founding Professor of Physics. Subsequently, Flinders advertised an academic position in Atomic and Nuclear Physics and the successful applicant was Lance McCarthy.

McCarthy, a New Zealander, knew nothing of the University's namesake, Matthew Flinders and it was Max Brennan who filled him in.

Some years later Lance McCarthy developed a deep and enduring interest in Matthew Flinders and the others who travelled with him on the *Investigator* during the circumnavigation voyage around Australia in 1802 and 1803. McCarthy's interest is not just in the people but in what they achieved in terms of the advancement of knowledge in navigation, in botany, in natural history and in the recording of the landscape.

Flinders is remembered as one of the great cartographers and for providing a solution to magnetic compass error. Also on the *Investigator* were Robert Brown, the first European botanist to collect, study and document South Australian flora and Ferdinand Bauer, the first European natural history artist to depict South Australian flora. Landscape artist, William Westall, was the first person to record South Australian scenes and Aboriginal cave paintings.

McCarthy's interest in the work, particularly the scientific aspects of the work, of Flinders, Brown, Bauer, Bauer and Westall, led him to conceive the idea of a garden to permanently recognise the work and achievements of those on the *Investigator*. In 2000 he purchased four hectares of land in the Adelaide Hills and

established a demonstration garden, planting many examples of the plants collected by Robert Brown on Matthew Flinders' voyage.

In 2008, the University adopted his idea and has created the basis of a Flinders Investigator Garden in central park, above the lake. This garden continues Dr McCarthy's work with plants and documents emanating from the voyage to be seen in one place. The garden is defined by a gravel path linking the planting zones, a start and finish point and a "resting place." Several temporary signs are located along the path.

In 1992, a Review of Campus Plan commented that "further landscape improvements will be desirable to make more of the campus useable and more enjoyable by more people." Suggestions for development included "a sheltered walkway across the lake supported by appropriate plantings" and "development of parts of the central park to facilitate their more intensive use including development of the natural amphitheatre . . ."



One of three initial garden designs by Urrbrae TAFE



Photos: Nhu-Y Nguyen

Flinders botanical journey continues

The Flinders Investigator Garden fits well with these proposals, and recently Diploma of Landscape Design students from the Urrbrae Campus of TAFE SA undertook, under the guidance of their project lecturer, Mr Arbel Zhao, a project to produce concept proposals for the future development of the garden and its near environs. The teams have presented their concept proposals all of which focused on creating an environment design to increase the usage of the area by an increased number and wider range of people – students, staff, alumni, school groups and the general public.

Amongst their ideas are an open air amphitheatre adjacent to the garden, appropriate interpretative signage, incorporating appropriate “bush tucker/bush medicine” flora, a meeting place, recognition of the Indigenous heritage of the area, and creating a space that is connected with the campus.

This co-operation with TAFE SA provided a wonderful opportunity for TAFE students to combine theory and practice in a real world situation. Many of the themes, ideas and proposals the students put forward will be considered as part of deliberations about the future development of the garden.

Another team of TAFE SA students, this time Flinders staff members Gisela Lausberg from the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics and James Conlon from the Financial Services Division undertook a project for their Diploma of Management in which they looked at the establishment of the garden and its sustainability in the future.

Lausberg and Conlon reported that a sustainable garden would provide opportunities for the University to improve and enhance relationships with Indigenous communities, staff and students, enhance the campus environment by beautifying a central park and create a garden of historical and cultural significance.

In addition, they proposed that a Friends of the Flinders Investigator Garden be established which could provide expertise on various aspects of the garden promote the garden as a research and educational resource, raise awareness of the Kurna people and other Indigenous groups within the garden, organize fund-raising events and conduct guided walks.

The University’s Grounds Operations Supervisor, Stephen Hoare, is very excited about the project which presently has somewhere between 200 and 220 individual plants. Many, but not all of the initial plants, are from the *Proteaceae* family, and there are approximately eight different genus and 25 different species.

Hoare says that the garden could accommodate up to 1000 individual plants (trees, shrubs and ground covers), with the species depending somewhat on their individual requirements. He and his staff will focus on those plants they feel can adapt best to the local conditions.

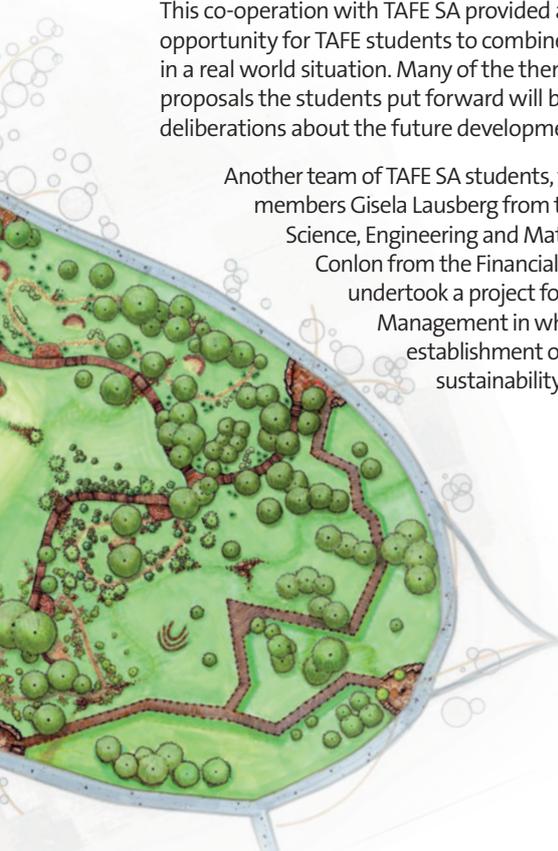
He sees “the biggest challenges in the future as the ability to provide adequate levels of maintenance for the garden and ensuring that the original vision and theme of the garden is maintained during its future maintenance and development.”

The biggest single expense in the future will be for the interpretative signs to provide visitors with appropriate information about the plantings, the *raison d’être* for the garden, and a sense of its place and connection with the University.

In a botanical sense, Matthew Flinders journey continues at the University that takes his name.

Geoff Sauer

If you wish to become a friend of the Flinders Investigator Garden, please contact Geoff Sauer on geoffrey.sauer@flinders.edu.au





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After tapping the views and aspirations of our graduates with the 2011 survey, Flinders is now acting on that feedback to enhance its relationship with, and provide benefits to, its alumni. Graduates have been our guests, for example, at opening night performances of the State Theatre Company and the Hills Sculptures Exhibition, events which derive from our sponsorship of these community organisations. A number of special projects are now underway including the Young Women's Leadership program, the Investigator Garden, and a series of Faculty reunions. These are just some examples of the way in which we are bringing together alumni, University staff, and our community partners which range from the arts and science to business and sport.

In meeting the strong interest that alumni retain in the University, we launched an online news service, *Flinders Indaily*, in February 2012. Founded on the independent, Adelaide-based news service published by Solstice Media, *Flinders Indaily* reports on the exciting research, teaching and community engagement activities of the University. We have a special page daily (page 3) of Flinders news, complementing the general, arts, lifestyle, business, and sports news from Solstice Media.

Reflecting the popularity of alumni reunions and an interest in news of past shared times, we are now adding a new dimension to *Flinders Indaily* with a column called 'Alumni Connect - Where

are they now?' An (edited) example of how we might delve into the past and bring you up to date with some of your university contemporaries follows with a profile of Felicity-ann Lewis, who trained as a teacher at Flinders, now lectures at the University and is the Mayor of Marion City Council.

We would love to hear your stories and those of your Flinders' friends – stories of achievement and success in your chosen field or simply a quirky slice of life that may interest other readers. Every good story requires illustration and we welcome 'before' and 'after' images, preferably from University days and the present. If you have an interesting story to tell, please contact Alumni Relations Officer, Geoff Sauer, on geoffrey.sauer@flinders.edu.au or telephone 08 8201 2511. The *Flinders Indaily* team will draft your story and share it with your Flinders' friends.

To see your story and those of your contemporaries, you can subscribe for FREE to *Flinders Indaily* by clicking the 'subscribe for free' link on the bottom of the home page and entering your email address – that's all that's required. If you would prefer to receive your Flinders and SA, national and international news via your mobile phone, please visit www.flinders.edu.au/news and follow the 'Flinders Indaily on your mobile' link.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you enjoy reading *Flinders Indaily*.

Diané Ranck

Director, Marketing and Communications Office

Alumni Connect – Where are they now?

High-profile Flinders University graduate and staff member Ms Felicity-ann Lewis has been appointed President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

In her new role, Ms Lewis will work with all sides of politics to progress a proposal for constitutional recognition of local government, including the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee; funding of a public education and awareness campaign; and suggestions for specific wording of an amendment to the Australian Constitution.

Another issue, she said, was Federal funding for local government and whether or not such funding is sufficient, given cost increases faced by local councils are well in excess of CPI.

Similarly, cost shifting is also problematic, for without a strong agreement between the three levels of government, "local and regional communities cannot be confident that their social, economic and environmental needs are being fully and openly appreciated by other levels of government."

Ms Lewis is firmly of the view that "public policy challenges require inter-state and intergovernmental collaboration and coordination" and that "solutions to problems must be developed collaboratively, to achieve shared goals."

She passionately believes that meaningful partnerships between the levels of government can only improve the quality of government decision-making for all Australians, and confidence in elected representatives.



Now and Then: Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis (left) and (right) with Flinders academic, Ken Hancock



Flinders physiotherapy student *Natasha Paffett* Photo: *Nhu-Y Nguyen*

Nineteen players and physiotherapy students are enrolled at Flinders

Panthers sponsorship puts points on the board

South Adelaide Football Club's CEO Ben Kavenagh has always been an enthusiastic advocate of the Club's links with Flinders; this year he made it personal by completing an MBA with the Flinders Business School.

Flinders became a sponsor of the Panthers in 2010, and while the relationship is a highly visible one, with South Adelaide's senior team sporting the Flinders logo on their guernseys, the arrangement has always been more than cross-promotional.

"Flinders is certainly one of the iconic institutions of the South and we'd like to think that South Adelaide is also one of the icons of the South. More importantly, both of us are trying to improve the lives of young people in the region," Mr Kavenagh said.

"It's one of the best sponsorships I've ever been involved with, to be honest, because it has so much more to offer than the traditional model and we have so much to offer each other."

Mr Kavenagh (pictured, bottom right in group photo) said that the Club and University enjoyed numerous synergies.

"There are a lot of community projects we are both involved in; when our players go into schools to talk about sport, we often have Flinders students with us talking about healthy lifestyles," he said.

And over the past two years, with co-ordination provided by the Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership program, a range of Flinders undergraduates – from creative writing students to business and physiotherapy students – have undertaken Work Integrated Learning placements at the Club.

Other Flinders students conducted a survey to assist SAFC in broadening its supporter base and increasing numbers at games.

Mr Kavenagh said that students doing work placements have made valuable contributions to the Club while picking up useful skills. Some enjoyed their time at the Club so much they have signed up as members.

With a cohort of players aged from 12 to 30, Mr Kavenagh said promoting the benefits of tertiary education at Flinders is part of the Club's strategy to prepare its players for life and careers outside and after football. It was an opportunity that he took up himself.

"I had an unfinished MBA I had begun interstate; Flinders allowed me to transfer my subjects, and I've just finished the last eight units," Mr Kavenagh said.

"It's been a really good experience. As well as broadening my knowledge base, it has helped get me out of the usual ways of thinking you get stuck in when you're in a job. It's broadened my thinking and helped give me a different perspective, which has been very refreshing."

While the University's involvement with the Panthers is set to continue and expand, Ben Kavenagh won't be around to see it at first hand – he is about to take up a job that involves a different sport in another part of the world.

As of 2013, Mr Kavenagh will take up a position with the International Cricket Council, assuming responsibility for co-ordinating national cricket competitions across both North and South America.

"There will be a lot of business skills involved in that, and some of the international subjects I've done at Flinders will be helpful in a range of issues across a range of countries. The international subjects have become useful far sooner than I ever would have imagined.

"Cricket is a game that's in its infancy in many of those countries, and the job is about establishing and growing the game, and making sure there are well run boards and good people in the national structures to ensure the game can reach its potential."

Charles Gent

Leaving a mark on Flinders

Zora Semberova

Zora Semberova, a European dancer who taught movement to Flinders drama students for more than a decade, died in Oct 2012 in Adelaide at the age of 99.

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1913, Semberova took up dance as a child, and trained in Paris and Austria before becoming a soloist in the State Theatre in Brno. She had the distinction of creating the role of Juliet for the first performances of Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. As a Russian work, the ballet was banned after the 1939 German invasion.

Semberova continued to dance in major roles with the Prague National Theatre after the war, but emigrated to Australia in 1968 to join her second husband, Rainer Radok, who came to Flinders as the foundation professor of applied mathematics in 1966.

She soon took up a position at the University teaching movement to student actors in the University's School of Drama. Awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters in 1979, she taught many well-known artists and performers, among them director Scott Hicks and his wife Kerry Heysen, mime artist Jennifer Hope, actor Noni Hazlehurst and theatre director Gale Edwards.



Zora Semberova

Photo courtesy of dancelines.com.au

Garth Gaudry

Garth Gaudry, who headed the Department of Mathematics at Flinders for 20 years, died in Sydney in October after a long illness.

Professor Gaudry came to Flinders in 1972 with a PhD from the Australian National University and postdoctoral experience in France, England and the US. During his time at Flinders, he became heavily involved in promoting the profile of mathematics and mathematics education through his leadership roles in the Australian Mathematical Society and through helping to create the Australian Mathematical Sciences Council.

Professor Gaudry also played a guiding role in the initial tertiary education of Terry Tao, who came to Flinders aged 12 and left for Princeton University with an MSc at 17. Professor Tao, now an academic at UCLA, was awarded the Fields Medal in 2006 at a ceremony Professor Gaudry attended.

Professor Gaudry left Flinders in 1992, moving first to UNSW and then to Victoria to head the Australian Mathematics Sciences Institute. He was a moving force in the foundation of the International Centre for Excellence for Education in Mathematics (ICE-EM), and oversaw the development of the ICE-EM's suite of school mathematics materials and textbooks, which remain a benchmark for quality in mathematics education.



Garth Gaudry with Terry Tao

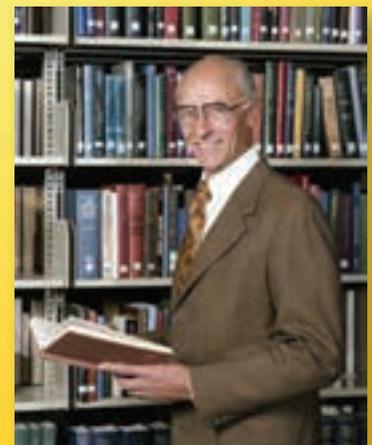
Noel Stockdale

Noel Stockdale, the University's founding and long-serving Librarian, died in Adelaide in October.

Appointed in 1963 as one of the small foundation group for the new Bedford Park campus, Mr Stockdale was given the task of setting up a library that would operate independently of the University of Adelaide.

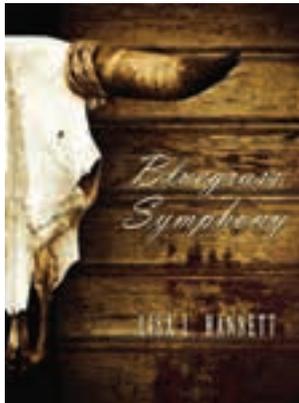
A highly respected figure, he remained Librarian until his retirement in 1987, by which time the Library had grown to a well-chosen collection of more than 650,000 volumes of a scope and depth remarkable for such a relatively young university. Mr Stockdale also established a separate Medical Library. His work was recognised with the award of an honorary Doctor of Letters by the University in 1988.

His immediate successor, Mr Bill Cations, described Mr Stockdale's contribution as "unique and substantial". "His management and leadership skills were of high calibre," said Mr Cations, who also praised Mr Stockdale's commitment to the service ethic and his maintenance of a close inter-relationship between the Library and the University's academic sector.



Noel Stockdale

In Print



Bluegrass Symphony

For someone who's afraid of the dark, Lisa Bennett knows no fear when it comes to writing horror stories.

A lecturer in creative writing at Flinders, Dr Bennett writes under the pen-name Lisa L Hannett. Her volume of 12 short stories, *Bluegrass Symphony*, won a 2011 Aurealis Award for Best Collection in Sydney earlier this year. The annual awards recognise and promote the achievements of Australian science fiction, fantasy and horror writers.

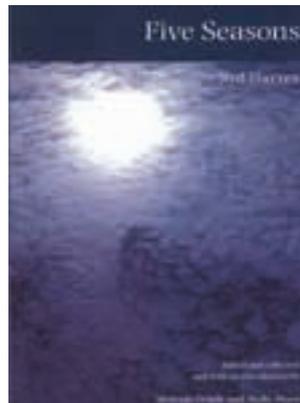
The stories are set in a pseudo-American Gothic world: Dr Bennett describes them as "more unsettling and creepy than scary".

A Canadian, Dr Bennett moved to Adelaide in 2001 where she took a second honours degree in English at Flinders, and eventually joined the staff of the English Department.

Her stories have appeared in such publications as *Clarkesworld Magazine*, *Fantasy Magazine*, *Weird Tales* and the *Year's Best Australian Fantasy and Horror 2010*, and have won a number of prizes.

Dr Bennett is currently working on her first novel, *The Familiar. Midnight and Moonshine*, her new short story collection, written with Angela Slatter, is due to be released shortly.

Bluegrass Symphony is published by Ticonderoga Publications.



Five Seasons

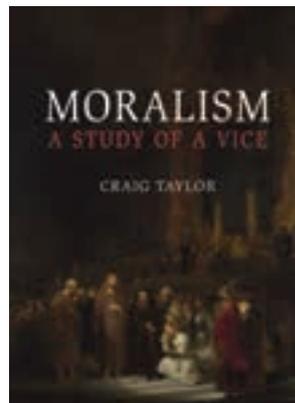
Five Seasons is a new collection of poems by Syd Harrex, now retired from the Department of English at Flinders.

The book has been edited by Flinders postgraduate students Melinda Graefe and Molly Murn, who also wrote the foreword.

The work of the editors was especially vital, as a sudden deterioration in his eyesight has forced Dr Harrex to change the process of composition: he can no longer revise his poems on the page.

The volume draws on a back catalogue of 20 years of poems, many previously unpublished, and traverses space as well as time to draw on visits to Dublin, India and Venice, as well as the Tasmanian places of the poet's childhood.

Rich in imagery, the poems display what the editors describe as "a tangible sensuality", as well as displaying Dr Harrex's trademark fondness for wordplay and literary allusion. The book's fifth section, *Out of Season*, contains several recent poems that confront the themes of death and dying, and of love and longing.



Moralism: A Study of a Vice

'Moralism' is a vice masquerading as a virtue, according to a new book by Flinders philosopher Dr Craig Taylor.

Dr Taylor's book, *Moralism: A Study of a Vice*, grew out of the heated public controversy around the exhibition by photographer Bill Henson in 2010 and the "moral panic" that surrounded it.

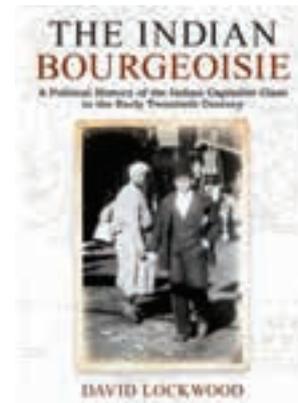
Dr Taylor said that the holier-than-thou attitudes of moralism colour and distort public debate, and are frequently adopted by both the media and politicians.

Yet politicians can also be its victims. In a chapter on elected officials, Dr Taylor points out that national leaders frequently act in ways that are morally problematic, but that they are required to do so by virtue of their role.

"The question to ask is, if you are going to morally criticise an elected official, surely you have to suggest what they should have done instead.

That is something the media conspicuously fail to do," Dr Taylor said.

Moralism is published by Acumen Publishing.



The Indian Bourgeoisie

The bourgeoisie, the capitalist class based on industrial wealth, got its big break in India thanks to an ironic alliance with socialist economics, according to a new book by historian Associate Professor David Lockwood.

In his book *The Indian Bourgeoisie*, Associate Professor Lockwood describes how India became an important resource for Britain in both World Wars, supplying not only military manpower but also raw materials and manufactured components vital to the British war machine.

By 1945, Britain was viewing India as a potential industrial rival, so India's growing entrepreneurial class turned to an unlikely partner – the left-leaning Indian National Congress.

"By the end of the Second World War, Indian business was totally on board with Congress plans for state economic intervention, centralised planning and state control," Associate Professor Lockwood said.

"Of course, this led to all sorts of problems after 1947 – but that's the subject of another book."

The Indian bourgeoisie: a political history of India's capitalist class in the early 20th century is published by IB Tauris.

Charles Gent

A 2020 vision for Flinders



Photo: Ashton Claridge

We always overestimate the change that will occur in the next two years and underestimate the change that will occur in the next ten. Don't let yourself be lulled into inaction.

Bill Gates

These wise words are relevant to this University which, like our counterparts around the country, is confronting significant change across the higher education sector.

Flinders' strategic plan, *Inspiring Flinders Future 2010-2014*, is unapologetically about change and transformation. The plan is based on a vision of Flinders as a medium-sized university characterised by a broad high quality undergraduate program, selected postgraduate coursework programs and focused research excellence.

The University will continue to serve its local communities in the southern suburbs of Adelaide and in particular be recognised as playing a significant role in the economic transformation of that region. At the same time we will broaden and deepen the University's engagement with, and contributions to, rural SA, selected regions internationally and especially the Northern Territory.

The nine key strategies of the Strategic Plan and the actions underpinning their implementation are all critical to delivering this vision and ensuring that, in doing so, Flinders is recognised as one of the most innovative and effective members of Australia's higher education system. Flinders does not need to be one of Australia's largest universities or one of its most comprehensive. We do need to be flexible, responsive, efficient and particularly, highly collaborative both internally and externally. And we do need to identify clearly where we are excellent and distinctive and align our activities to support these areas.

Our pursuit of excellence in research and teaching has underpinned the appointment of 13 Strategic Professors and we have, as described elsewhere in this magazine, attracted world class expertise and experience to Flinders in such areas as cognitive neuroscience, criminology, cancer research, mathematics and creative arts. We have also recognised fourteen of our highest achievers as Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professors. I was also very pleased to see the successful introduction of new education-focused academic positions in the past year, an initiative that gives excellent teachers and educators the opportunity to change the traditional mix of teaching and research.

We have made progress towards our Strategic Plan goals – of building supportive communities, enhancing educational opportunities, enhancing the student experience, valuing quality in teaching, focusing research, strengthening internationalisation, valuing our people, commitment to environmental excellence and improving our financial capacity.

Our student body now comfortably exceeds 20,000 with nearly 4000 international students. We are now firmly embedded in the fabric of higher education in the Northern Territory and, in our home community, the southern suburbs of Adelaide, we are seen as a key player in its economic transformation. Our recent decision to invest \$120 million dollars in a new building on the Tonsley Park redevelopment (see page 2) to house the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics is testimony to this commitment. This is also a tangible reflection of our commitment to science, technology, engineering and maths and business investment activities aligned with the high-value manufacturing vision for the site.

However, to fully achieve our goals and position this University for success in the demanding decade ahead will require us to make some hard decisions and choices that will challenge our behaviours and attitudes. We must be willing to do things differently, to seek better and more efficient ways to deliver our enabling services; to consider our traditional approaches in teaching and learn from each other and best practice elsewhere to better use technologies in support of learning; to look sideways and collaborate internally in ways that deliver better student outcomes, greater research focus and reduce duplication; to recognise that some things that we have done or taught or researched have come to a natural end and new opportunities need to be actively sought. For a modern, successful academic enterprise standing still is not an option and, as Bill Gates said, we must guard against inaction. I am confident that the staff and students of Flinders University can rise to these challenges but we will need the support of our alumni, external partners and particularly the communities we serve. And that is why 'building supportive communities' is our first key strategy and increasingly, I believe, the purpose of not only this university but all universities.

Professor Michael Barber
Vice-Chancellor

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