



UNIVERSITY
SENIOR COLLEGE
at Adelaide University Inc.



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GRADUATION

Thursday 6 December 2007

**Mr Noel Guerin, CEO University Senior College
will be guest speaker**

Sandy Williams and David Moen will host proceedings

UNIVERSITY SENIOR COLLEGE GRADUATION 2007

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Musical Interlude:

Alex Siow, playing electone, will present '*Telling the Milky Way*' - Katsuhisa Hattori, '*Neighbours Totoro*', Hisaichi Jo & '*Take it to the Moon*' - Hiroshi Kubota.

The assembly is asked to rise as the staff and Official Party enter.

The National Anthem, *Advance Australia Fair* to be sung by **Maryann Boettcher**

Welcome from **Sandy Williams** and **David Moen**

Acknowledgement to the Kurna People

The Principal, **Bob Holloway**, will speak to his annual report.

The Year 11 Academic Prizes will be announced by **Graham Payze**, presented by **Bob Holloway** and assisted by **Inger Schmidt**.

Lauren O'Brien, playing violin, will present *Danse Espagnolo* – Sarasate and *Hungarian Dance No 2* – Brahms. Lauren will be accompanied by **Irina Liobimava**

Brian Bates will introduce our guest speaker, **Noel Guerin**.

Year 12 Graduation, announced by **Lisa Temple**, presented by **Bob Holloway** and assisted by **Inger Schmidt**.

Year 12 Mentors:	Morris Allen	Di Averis
	Andrew Bee	Toni Chen
	Damien Coghlan	Kate Cutts
	Martin Gray	Joy Leaver
	Igor Plisko	David Ralph
	Paul Stokes	Lisa Temple
	Murray Thompson	Maurie Wetherall
	John Wilkins	Yvette Winter

Year 12 Academic Prizes will be announced by **Lisa Temple**, presented by **Noel Guerin** and assisted by **Inger Schmidt**.

Jody Fisher, playing guitar, will present *A. Barrios Mangore: Val op.8 no.4* – I. Albeniz arr J. Fisher: Granada.

Candace and **Faith Nel** will present the Valedictory Speech

Assembly to rise as the Official Party leaves Elder Hall.

PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

2007

I am pleased to present the Principal's Annual Report for the sixth year in the history of University Senior College. This is a factual report assembled for members of the USC community to provide an opportunity to reflect on the highlights of 2007.

USC is a school that challenges young people academically and emotionally. In a very supportive framework we place high expectations on each and every student, promoting personal growth through the need to take responsibility for their own learning and the pursuit of academic excellence.

This past year has been one of consolidation and refinement for the School. Much of what we have pursued has been driven by the College Council clearly articulating the mission, vision and values of the School.

MISSION – *In a diverse school community we aim to educate and prepare our students for tertiary study and lifetime success.*

VISION – *We will provide learning that resonates with young people from all backgrounds and be the college of choice for pre-tertiary education in SA.*

VALUES – *We recognise and value cultural diversity.
We endorse a culture founded on integrity, mutual respect and teamwork.
We accept only the best of ourselves and for our students.
We promote creativity and risk taking in the education process.*

During our foundation year in 2002 we had a total student population of 230 local students and no internationals. In 2007 we enrolled 427 students (341 local and 86 international). Despite the competitive nature of independent schooling in Adelaide there can be no doubt that the well structured academic pathway to tertiary studies that USC provides has wide appeal.

To be part of Adelaide University is inspirational for students, and exciting for staff. Our students are motivated by their unique environment – whether it be the physical beauty of the university campus, the wealth of information and resources at their disposal, or the welcoming attitudes and shared values of their fellow

students. USC was established to focus on the needs of senior secondary students free from the constraints of more formal school environments, and offer a transitional path to tertiary study. Students choose this school because they are highly motivated and have a clear vision of themselves as tertiary graduates in the very near future. So for all the staff, to work with these students as mentor, lecturer, teacher and friend is a privilege.

Interactions in the learning process are truly symbiotic and an exciting future lies ahead as we explore the possibilities and re-define education at the secondary-tertiary interface. Our ongoing challenge is always to be aware of the changing needs of our students, to retain our passion for learning, and to ensure that students leave the college with a sense of confidence and purpose in their pursuit of a career.

GOVERNANCE

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing support and professionalism shown by the members of our College Council under the leadership of Dr Judith Brine. The Council's role is to govern the school and promote policies that are consistent with the philosophy, mission and vision of the school. It has been my observation that the Council members endeavour to take account of the views of the school community and their decisions are underpinned by the principles of integrity, honesty and objectivity.

Since taking on the leadership role at USC I have found the working relationship between myself and Council to be supportive, cooperative and extremely effective.

The revitalised ten-year Joint Venture Agreement between USC and the University of Adelaide signed in July 2006 allows all members of the USC community to feel confident about the future. The goodwill and mutual respect that has operated since the foundation of the school in 2002 has been formalised and embedded in the new agreement.

I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by Professor Fred McDougall, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President (Academic), who reluctantly relinquished his position on Council during the year. His empathy for young people and his deep understanding of university education provided much support and guidance during his time on Council. We have been most fortunate to secure the services of Professor Birgit Lohmann, Pro Vice Chancellor (Quality and Learning) to fill this vacancy. Birgit is a distinguished physicist and has particular strengths in

teaching and learning. We look forward to her contributions on Council as we move to consolidate our position as a centre of excellence.

During August the school went through a comprehensive review by the Non-Government Schools Registration Board to secure accreditation for operating as an independent school in SA. The review is a very thorough process and it provided an opportunity to reflect upon and refine our operational procedures. As members of the Registration Board moved around the campus during their inspection, they remarked on the positive tone of the school and the enthusiasm shown by our students to engage in the learning process.

Noel Guerin, founder of USC, announced to Council at the August Council meeting that he will retire as CEO at the end of the 2007 calendar year. All members of Council, and the whole USC community of teachers and scholars, are indebted to Noel for his vision and the energy given to establish and guide USC through its formative years. Noel has laid the foundations of a unique and creative enterprise that, in the context of *'future SACE'* is poised to take senior secondary education in an unprecedented direction in SA.

The position of CEO of USC *at Adelaide University Inc* will no longer form part of the administrative structure of the school. The Principal is answerable to Council regarding all matters dealing with the ongoing operation and well being of the school.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

Chinese New Year (the year of the Pig) was celebrated with a traditional Lion Dance, firecrackers and 1000 delicious dumplings on 16th February in Charles Street.

The academic year commenced on a high note when we received full details of the Year 12 results from the 2006 SSABSA exams. Six students secured a TER above 99 (***Connor O'Brien, Zacki Malik, Justin Mencil, Izabel Gibson, Sasha Price and Enoch Liew***) and a further 28 students secured a TER above 95. Other data of interest: USC students secured 31 Merit Awards, 32% of all candidates received a TER above 90, 28% of all candidates secured 5 A's and 65% of all candidates secured A and B grades only. The most encouraging statistic was the fact that 90% of candidates received their first preference offer from SATAC.

Connor O'Brien was Dux of the school for 2006 with a TER of 99.95%. He secured four 20's and a 19 and was awarded the prestigious University of Adelaide Vice

Chancellors Scholarship. In addition **Zacki Malik** was awarded a University of Adelaide Principal's Scholarship to pursue his studies in Medicine. Five other students secured direct entry into medicine at Adelaide.

Izabel Gibson, Zacki Malik & Connor O'Brien were awarded the National Lord Florey Student Prize for their outstanding Year 12 results.

Chen CHEN (4th) and **Stanley ZHANG** (5th) secured outstanding results in the senior division of the highly regarded South Australian Mathematics Competition.

Chen CHEN and **Yan ZHU** both secured High Distinctions in the first semester examinations of the Headstart Maths program at the University of Adelaide. Chen secured the top mark for the exam amongst all candidates.

A number of students performed at the highest level in the Australian Mathematics Competition. A total of 2 High Distinctions (**Andrew Fosdike and Giddy Soeharyo**), 6 Distinctions and 11 Credits were awarded.

Evan Markby was ranked 1st in SA in the National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition. Of the 47 students who participated, 7 were awarded High Distinctions (**Olivia De Palma, Andrew Fosdike, Ben Gibbs, Morris Lazootin, Evan Markby, Sarah Shelton, & James Waterhouse**), another 7 students received Distinctions and 7 received Credits.

Forty two of our Chemistry students, in teams of three, entered the RACI Titration Competition. Three of the fourteen teams did well enough to be invited to compete in the national final. In the 'titre off' three individual gold medals were won by **Anita Tran, Cathaya Yong and Clare O'Sullivan**.

Sandy Williams was awarded an Australian Defence Force **Leadership and Teamwork Award** for the work done in raising funds for World Vision through the 40 hour famine. USC students raised over \$1200.

Cathaya Yong (Stage 1, Japanese) and **Will Honores** (Stage 2, Spanish) each received an Award for Outstanding Achievement from the SA School of Languages. A reminder also that **Megan Payne** scored a 20/20 and secured the top mark with SASOL in Stage 2 Italian whilst in Year 11 last year.

Year 12 Drama students presented four high calibre and entertaining performances of '**CLOUDSTREET**' by Nick Enright & Justin Monjo, from the novel

by Tim Winton, to a packed drama theatre early in second term. The SSABSA moderators commented upon the high quality of the performances. Once again **Martin Gray**, with support from **Zo Poppyjon**, did a wonderful job in directing the productions.

Phoebe Paterson de Heer was selected as a delegate to the 2007 United Nations Youth Conference in Canberra.

Mathew Knight competed in the Junior Moomba Water Ski Masters in Melbourne and was ranked 2nd in slalom. In the National Water Ski Titles held over Easter in Canberra he was ranked 1st in the jump event, 2nd in slalom and 3rd overall.

USC Music students presented an entertaining and high quality **Sunday Concert** for parents and friends at Scot's Church on North Terrace during September. **Geoff Rogers and Ashleigh Tobin** supported the students in the organisation and delivery of a thoroughly entertaining concert.

Laura Poppleton was appointed Vice Captain of the State Team and represented SA in cross-country at the Australian School Sports Championship in Perth during the year.

Semester 1 **academic results** for Year 11 students showed 32 students securing four or more A's. At Year 12 level 34 students received three or more A's.

During March, celebrated author **Peter Goldsworthy**, visited USC and spoke with the Year 11 English students about his novel **Maestro**.

Associate Professor **Kurt Lushington** spoke to Year 12 students regarding his research into sleep deprivation and the impact upon performance.

In May a number of students from USC were involved with the **Youth Parliament** as a part of Law Week. The quality of the debate and the depth of understanding shown by USC students left the opposing speakers shell-shocked.

During the campaign for the Federal Election our Politics students were fortunate to have Professor **Dean Jaensch** deliver a special lecture. Question time was particularly energised by the pervasive climate of the upcoming election.

The Annual College Formal was held at the Adelaide Hilton Hotel, Victoria Square, on Friday 3rd August. With 'Midnight' as the theme, approximately 400 staff and

students attended a very energetic and entertaining gathering organised by **Lisa Temple** and an enthusiastic student committee.

All local Year 11 students were involved in a **work experience** program coordinated by **Brian Bates** at the end of term 2. The primary aim of the exercise is for students to secure a placement for one week in an area of vocational interest, to gain a better understanding of particular careers. Students also produce a written report based on their experience.

The two **Year 11 Drama classes** presented Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' early in fourth term. The quality of each of the four productions was outstanding.

The Graduate Exhibition of Art and Design by students of Year 12 Visual Arts Studies was officially opened by The University Librarian, **Ray Choate**, on 22nd November in the Ira Raymond Room of the Barr Smith Library. **Faith Nel and Hannah Naley** were jointly awarded the Barr Smith Prize. Two students, **Emily Harris and Hannah Naley** had work selected for exhibition at the SSABSA Art Show.

During **National Science Week** USC was invited to exhibit in the forecourt of the SA Museum. A theme of "Pathways to Science" provided an opportunity to showcase aspects of the unique science experience available to USC students through our association with the University of Adelaide. Innovative science programs on campus included genetic engineering ("Get into Genes"), electron microscopy, gas chromatography, photonics and sports physiology.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the large number of anxious expressions we saw on so many faces as the young women on campus were given the opportunity to receive the **HPV immunisation** during the year. Nadia's lollies were in demand.

STAFF MATTERS

The success of USC during its short history has been dependent upon the energy, commitment and professionalism of the staff. We are very fortunate with the depth of quality and experience of the USC staff.

I draw your attention to the staff list published in the 2007 Year Book to gain some insight into the formal qualifications that members of staff have completed. In addition four staff are currently pursuing post-graduate qualifications, four are

SSABSA subject moderators, three are involved with presenting teacher training programs, two are SSABSA examiners and others are involved with the production of text books and revision materials for the wider education community. Above all else the staff at USC love to teach and all the activities that have been mentioned point towards professional development, self-improvement and ultimately better outcomes in the classroom.

Kath Gregurke (ESL) accepted an appointment at an International School in Germany at the end of first semester and **Trevor Lovett** (ELICOS) chose to return to his writing and post graduate research. Kath and Trevor made significant contributions to the positive work tone of the international classes and we will miss their unique styles. Both had a remarkable capacity to connect with international students and explain the Australian idiom.

During the 2007 academic year we have welcomed a number of new staff onto campus. **Trevor Bland** (Maths), **Robert Horne** (Classical Studies), **Louise Small** (Accounting), **Judith Mohan** (ELICOS) and **Damien Coghlan** (ESL) have all settled into the routines of USC and added greatly to the productive work tone of the learning environment.

Murray Thompson was presented with a Teaching Excellence Award by the Graduate School of Education, University of Adelaide, in recognition of his commitment to innovative teaching practice and curriculum design over many years of teaching in SA.

Nadia Lovett continues a qualitative study in the area of 'Female Adolescents Help-Seeking Behaviours' and in November she presented a paper at the Australian Psychological Society's National Conference. The value and quality of the training resource that will be developed from this study will owe a great deal to the insights provided by a number of USC students.

Toni Chen won a language teaching scholarship and travelled to China in January. She was subsequently invited to be a keynote speaker at two national conferences in recognition of her expertise.

Igor Plisko won a teaching scholarship in 'Civics and Citizenship' and attended a national conference in Canberra during January. His performance at the conference was outstanding and led to a Senate Fellowship from the Parliamentary Education Office to promote the teaching of 'Civics and Citizenship' amongst Independent schools in SA.

As Director of Studies, **Murray Thompson** has the responsibility of coordinating the professional development program that we have put in place over the past five years. The staff PD program places a strong emphasis on high quality learning for students and exemplary teaching by staff. The internal professional journal “Senior College - Sub Cruce” (SC)² continues to be a strong sounding board for our own best practice and the catalyst for ongoing professional development.

On Friday 7th December 2007 we will launch an inaugural ‘Old Scholars’ function. **Helen Webber and Graham Payze** have led a committee organising an event which will allow the graduates from 2002 and 2003 to come together and reminisce about the foundation years. It is our hope that an ‘Old Scholars Association’ will form and grow from this initial gathering.

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Inger Schmidt (Head of USC International) has brought together a very strong and cohesive team to support the needs of the largest contingent of International students in any one school in the state. To be far from home, immersed in a foreign culture and operating in a second language generates a multitude of problems that require specialised support. Inger and her support team (Laurel Clewlow and Tash Pressley) provide this in abundance with an efficiency that is envied by others. The development of level 2 in Charles Street as a home base for our International students has provided a good foundation upon which we can continue to further develop the quality of the program.

Lisa Temple (Year 12 Dean) and **Graham Payze** (Year 11 Dean) continue to provide clear guidance to their mentor teams and a high degree of care and concern to the students in their charge. A critical factor in achieving our goal to promote an open adult learning environment is the provision of accessible and reliable counselling support. **Nadia Lovett** has established herself as an integral part of our counselling team. Her ability to engage with students quickly and gain their confidence is an important step in helping young people to resolve issues that may inhibit their academic progress. Students at USC are fortunate to have such ready access to senior staff of this calibre as they have a wealth of experience and deep insight into the needs of students in this context.

In the area of curriculum development and administration of the SSABSA requirements we are indebted to **Murray Thompson** and **Yvette Winter**. Additionally, **Heather Wiseman's** role as IT Manager is pivotal in so many aspects of our daily routine. We would grind to a halt without her expertise. These are complex tasks that demand exceptional organisational skills and the capacity to work under pressure. It is comforting to know that Murray, Yvette and Heather

are providing the support necessary to meet the needs and aspirations of our students.

As well as recognising the ongoing professional input from all the teaching staff I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution made by the support staff. They add much to the quality of our school. In particular I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by those with whom I work very closely on a day-to-day basis; **Laurene Skinner**, who fulfils the crucial role of Registrar, and **Karen Boyd**, our Finance Manager. Both add a high degree of efficiency in areas that demand a strong understanding of financial systems and interpersonal communication.

Similarly I wish to acknowledge the exceptional work of Helen Webber, Lee Paschburg, Laurel Clewlow, Natasha Pressley, Jasmine Bates, Sophie Guerin, Merrilyn Ades, Michelle Giavis and the irrepressible Candy Brown. Carolyn Woods continues to provide wonderful support in the laboratories and I am grateful for her efficient management of the OHS&W committee. USC could not function without the expertise and efficiency of the administration staff, nor could we hope to generate the same warm welcoming atmosphere.

FACILITIES

The 'Careers Room' on level 1 in the Charles Street building has been completed and is fully operational and a third computer room has been provided to accommodate the ever growing demand across the curriculum. Our computing system continues to be the best available and our link with the University will ensure that we stay in front of what is provided in other schools. With the recent change in Federal Government we hope that Kevin Rudd's 'Education Revolution' will allow USC to explore even greater innovations in the area of computing.

Refurbishment of the Tower building is due for completion in February and the facilities will be taken over by the Department of the Professions. Plans for the Education Building are still unclear, but the whole area is to be upgraded and there can be no doubt that it will provide a more attractive and comfortable environment in which to operate. The relocation of teaching staff to level 2, 230 North Terrace has provided a spacious and very productive work area which allows the all important one-to-one support program to operate efficiently.

It is pleasing to report that USC has recently secured two grants from the Federal Government under the 'Investing in Our Schools' program. Funds will be used to upgrade student facilities in Art and Drama during 2008.

FAREWELL TO STUDENTS

In two weeks from Graduation our students will know their Year 12 SSABSA results. Many will receive outstanding scores, but there may be a hiccup or two in store for some as well. It is timely to remember that success in exams is not necessarily a guarantee of success in life, let alone proof of wisdom. Nor is failure in exams a guarantee of future failure. Our graduates are poised to make a significant shift into tertiary education and we would hope that they make the transition an intellectually rigorous, creative and productive journey.

A final word to the Class of 2007:

Be open to new ideas, but do not accept them blindly - evaluate them and make wise choices for yourself and your environment. You, the Class of 2007, have the potential and capacity to make a positive difference in a world that demands change.

2007 has gone in the blink of an eye, yet we have achieved so much together. May I wish every member of the school community a most enjoyable festive season and a happy new year.

To the graduating class, I wish you every success, and will follow your journey with great interest.

Bob Holloway
December 2007

Thanks to Candy Brown, Merrilyn Ades, Tash Pressley, Lauren Lovett & Laurene Skinner for helping with Graduation arrangement.

A special thank you goes to Sophie Guerin for compilation and production of the 2007 Year Book.