The University’s Hidden Treasures

The University of Adelaide is one of the oldest universities in the country, and during its 136-year history, has collected a wealth of items – including artworks, artefacts, manuscripts and more. Yet visitors to the University, and even students and staff, glimpse only a fraction of the collection, with many items unable to be placed on permanent display.

Impact takes delight in presenting an insider’s guide to some of the less-known and rarely displayed items held by the University, and a guide to how you can access some of these amazing treasures.

Illuminated Addresses
From the Barr Smith Library’s Special Collections

In the late 19th Century, illuminated addresses were a popular way to mark a special occasion or an individual’s outstanding achievements. Beautifully illustrated and hand-written, sometimes by leading artists of the day, they were presented as part of a formal celebration, as scrolls, framed panels or albums, and often in elaborate boxes. The addresses praised the recipient in what we would call a very formal style today, but with their impressive decoration and delicate line-drawings, intricate calligraphy and beautiful watercolours, they are a true work of art.

Special Collections holds many illuminated addresses, but some of the finest are those presented to the Irish actor and manager Barry Sullivan between 1856-1879. They were bequeathed in 1976 to the Barr Smith Library by Miss Angel Symon, together with over 6,000 items focusing on English stage history of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Attic Marble Lekythos fragment, 4th century BC
From the Museum of Classical Archaeology

A lekythos is a type of Greek pottery, commonly used as grave-markers in cemeteries around classical Athens. The Museum’s fragment of a marble lekythos, consisting of the lower half of the marble vase, dates to around the 4th century BC. This is one of three lekythoi belonging to a family group; one of which is now in the Musée du Louvre and the other is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The three lekythoi show stages in the family history, and appear to commemorate members from three generations of the same family.

The images on lekythoi were often depictions of daily activities or rituals. The University’s fragment shows a man standing with his left arm raised to hold a spear (which was painted on, but is now gone), his right hand holding the outstretched hand of a woman seated on a chair beside him. Inscriptions identify the man as Kalliphanes and the woman as Leionike.

The University’s lekythoi appears to be the earliest of the three. The fragment was first purchased by the Classics Department in the 1960s, but it was not until recently that research brought to light its true nature and place within the family group. It is now one of the most significant pieces in the Museum’s collection.

Story by Lana Guineay

Viewing the University’s Treasures

Access to selected items from Special Collections and the Museum of Classical Archaeology can be arranged for Friends of the University and members of the general public.

For more information, please contact:
Special Collections
Phone: (08) 8303 5224
Museum of Archaeology
Phone: (08) 8303 5638
Until now, South Australian students who wanted to become veterinarians were forced to travel interstate in order to gain their qualifications.

That’s all changing with the establishment of a pioneering Veterinary Science School at the University of Adelaide’s Roseworthy Campus – giving students from across the state the chance to live, work and study in their own backyard for the very first time. The new School will help address a 20 per cent shortage of veterinarians in South Australia when compared with other states, says Head of School, Professor Gail Anderson, as well as provide local students with some of the best teaching resources anywhere in the world.

“South Australia offers alternative opportunities for veterinarians, including involvement in the vital and expanding aquaculture industry,” Professor Anderson says. “In particular, we hope this School will address the serious shortage of vets in South Australia.”

Australia’s first agricultural college was established in 1883 at Roseworthy, 50km north of Adelaide. In the last 126 years, it has played a pivotal role in shaping the nation, addressing multiple crises including serious drought, pests, unsustainable farming practices, food shortages and a deficit of trained young people entering agriculture.

It has an impressive list of firsts to its credit – pioneering the use of superphosphate in Australia; introducing the first wine-making course in the country; developing the practice of crop rotation; and is on the verge of producing the world’s first surgical mulesing alternative.

In the 21st century, Roseworthy is once again leading the way, with the establishment of the Veterinary Science program and the $37 million Vet School, to be completed in 2010.

The capital works program involves construction of a new 5000 square metre building that will house teaching laboratories; a clinical skills laboratory; an e-learning centre; a pathology teaching and diagnostic suite and a veterinary teaching hospital at the University’s Roseworthy Campus. The project also includes the refurbishment of existing lecture theatres, laboratories and offices.

The new School had its first intake of 47 students in 2008 for its three-year Pre-Veterinary undergraduate Science degree and received about 400 applications for places in the 2009 intake. To complete their training, graduates of this degree program will then study for a three-year postgraduate veterinary science degree. There will be 70 places a year for the postgraduate veterinary science degree starting in 2011.

“The new facilities will enable students to utilise teaching resources that are among the best of their kind anywhere in the world,” says Gail Anderson.

“Veterinary students at the University of Adelaide will be provided with a broad exposure to all aspects of veterinary science, including livestock production, equine health, aquaculture and biosecurity, companion and exotic species.

“Connection to the SABRENet network will facilitate video link learning with various regional partners, while world-class audio visual facilities in our labs and surgery suites will enable remote teaching throughout the facility for students and continuing education vets.”

**Building a Future**

Audrey Abbie has been an active member of the University of Adelaide community for more than 60 years, and recently made a substantial gift to create a prize for the Dux of the new Veterinary Science School. “I’ve always been very proud of the University, and I was aware of the need for a Veterinary School and course in South Australia,” Audrey says. “When I heard about the new school, I was very pleased, and I am happy to offer my support”.

An artist’s impression of the Vet School’s clinical teaching hospital, due for completion in 2010.
Profile: Professor Gail Anderson  
Head of School Veterinary Science

Orthopaedic researcher and specialist vet surgeon Gail Anderson is the inaugural Head of the School of Veterinary Science.

Gail gained her Bachelor of Veterinary Science with Honours from the University of Melbourne; has a MSc in Comparative Orthopaedics from Ontario Veterinary College; and a PhD in Osteoclast Cell Biology from the University of Toronto.

She was also the first Australian woman to attain Diplomate status from the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Gail’s research benefits both veterinary and human patients.

Gail is a keen walker, cyclist, and gardener. She is a dog aficionado and also enjoys the craft of working with stained glass.

Interested in joining us for a Bridge Day?

Come along with your Bridge prowess or bring along a table of friends and try your skill against other University alumni and friends.

Date: Thursday 10 September
Time: 10.00am - 2.30pm
Where: Hoods Room, Staff Club North Terrace Campus
Cost: $20 per head (includes morning tea and lunch)
RSVP: Register your interest by 7 August 2009 with Sue Fox - 8303 3234

Friends and Benefactors  
Veterinary Science Morning Tea

On Wednesday 8 April, guests attended a morning tea in the Ira Raymond Room of the Barr Smith Library, where they heard about the exciting new Veterinary Science Program and construction of a new Veterinary School from the Head of School, Professor Gail Anderson.
Friends and Benefactors’ Events

Event Hits the Right Note
Development and Alumni, together with the Elder Conservatorium of Music, welcomed guests to a special afternoon of music in the Hartley Concert Room on 22 April 2009. The ‘Ménage à Trio’ - past and present students from the Conservatorium - delighted music lovers with a performance of Stravinsky’s “Soldier’s Tale” and two movements, followed by an afternoon tea.

Digging up the past helps us demystify the present
In the Mawson Lecture Theatre on 25 June 2009, Development and Alumni were joined by 50 guests at a presentation on Ancient DNA by Professor Alan Cooper and PhD student, Christina Adler. Guests were invited to take a tour of the Tate Museum with Art & Heritage volunteer tour guide, Aileen Kearns, following morning tea.

What’s coming up ....
Victor Harbor Morning Tea
Graduates and friends of the University from the Fleurieu region have the opportunity to meet and hear about exciting new initiatives and projects from their alma mater at the annual Victor Harbor Morning Tea. The inaugural event in 2008 saw more than 40 guests attending. The second annual Morning Tea will be held in October, with presentations from Robyn Brown, Director of Development and Alumni who will provide an overview of the latest news from the University, and Sue Henry, Executive Officer, who will discuss the University’s online networking facility, Adelaide onLION.

If you would like to be placed on the mailing list for the event, contact Sue Fox on (08) 8303 3234 or email susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au.

Where Waterside Restaurant, Whalers Inn
When Friday 9th October, 10.00am
RSVP (08) 8303 3234 or email susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au.

Bridge Day
To be held on Thursday 10 September from 10.00am to 2.00pm. For details please refer to information on page 3.

F&B Events
Friends and Benefactors events at the University of Adelaide give guests the opportunity to visit behind the scenes facilities, enjoy special performances and find out the latest news from the University. Places are limited, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Sue Fox on (08) 8303 3234 or email susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au.

BSL Memory Book
What’s your favourite memory of the Barr Smith Library?
For over 75 years, the Barr Smith Library has been serving the University of Adelaide community. To celebrate our past, we’re inviting you to share your favourite memory or story of the Barr Smith Library. Whether you are an alumnus, a student, staff or friend – your recollection is valuable. It could be an unforgettable event, an anecdote or a defining moment.

Add your memory to our Memory Book now by visiting http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl_memorybook