Annual Report 2009

inspiring achievement
**Vision**

We are a leading international university distinguished by our boldness, vigour and imagination. We are environmentally astute, engaged with the communities we serve and dynamically connected to the wider world.

As the locus of academic activity in the University, the Faculties and their constituent Schools will be key to achieving the vision. By 2014 all Flinders University Schools will be distinguished nationally (and internationally as appropriate) in one or more of the following areas:

• innovation in curriculum and pedagogy;
• high quality/high impact research;
• leadership in responding to social, economic and national needs, policies and opportunities;
• innovative alliances with the community, industry, government or other education providers; and
• concentrations of distinguished scholars who are recognised as leaders in their fields and whose advice is sought by appropriate external agencies, government and industry.

**Values**

At all levels of the University, we commit to the following values:

• rigorous intellectual enquiry;
• fairness, integrity and respect for others;
• equity and diversity;
• collaboration and teamwork;
• environmental sustainability; and
• respect for and recognition of Indigenous perspectives.
The Chancellor’s Letter of Transmission

His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR
Governor of South Australia
Government House
Adelaide South Australia 5000

Your Excellency

I have the honour to transmit to you the Annual Report of the Council of Flinders University for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 in compliance with the Flinders University of South Australia Act 1966, Section 27.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Gerlach AM
Chancellor

22 April 2010
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Appendix: Council Member Attendance
A Word from the Chancellor

I was honoured to be invited to serve as Chancellor of Flinders University. Flinders University is an important educational institution in South Australia and plays a significant role in both the State’s and, more broadly, Australia’s education focus.

I look forward to making a contribution to the University’s future development and success. I am particularly interested in how the Council can assist the University to position itself effectively in an increasingly globalised world and will be working with the Council, Vice-Chancellor, staff and students, to assist in developing strategies to achieve this.

As I commence my term as Chancellor, I am conscious of those who have gone before me and served the University with distinction. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Sir Eric Neal, AC CVO, who provided wise and energetic leadership to the University over a period of eight years.

Stephen Gerlach AM
Chancellor
The Council is the governing body of the University, and is legislatively charged with the role of approving the mission and strategic direction of the University, as well as the annual budget and business plan.

**MEMBERS EX OFFICIO**

**Chancellor**
Sir Eric J Neal, AC, CVO, HonDEng Syd, HonDUniv SAust, DUniv Flin, CEng(UK), CEng, FIE Aust, FIGEM(UK), FAICD, FAIM, FSTE, FAIA

**Vice-Chancellor**
Professor Michael Barber, BSc UNSW, PhD Cornell, FAA, ComplEAust, MAICD, FTSE

**Presiding Member of the Academic Senate**
Professor Marika Tiggemann, BA Adel, PhD Adel

**MEMBERS APPOINTED BY COUNCIL**

Mr Nicholas Begakis, AM, BTech(EE) SAIT, FAICD
Mr Begakis has more than 30 years experience in a variety of business roles, including several senior management roles in manufacturing, as an entrepreneur creating his own businesses, and in venture capital and merchant banking.

Deputy Chancellor Ms Leonie J Clyne, BA Flin, MAICD
Ms Clyne is founder and Managing Director of corporate clothing company, Angus Clyne Pty Ltd. She has held a number of positions on government boards specialising in vocational education and disability.

Dr Bronwyn Halliday
(from 13 August 2009).
BA, MEd Adel, MBA Georgetown, DBA UniSA
Dr Halliday is a management consultant specialising in corporate governance and strategic reviews. She has been a senior public servant, formerly Executive Director, Planning SA and prior to that Director, State Library of SA.

Mr John G Hood, BEd Flin, Dip Acc Flin, FJIA, GAICD, FAIA
Mr Hood provides strategic business and financial advice to organisations ranging from regional businesses to multinational corporations and public sector entities.

The Hon Dr Diana V Laidlaw, AM, BA Flin, DUniv Flin
Dr Laidlaw was a member of the Parliament of South Australia from 1982 to 2003, which included nine years as Minister for Transport, the Arts and Status of Women and four years as Minister for Urban Planning.

Ms Peggy Lau Flux, BA(Econ) WOnt, MBA HK, BA (Journalism) SAust
Ms Lau Flux was a corporate banker by profession and has worked with Standard Chartered Bank and Citibank, in Hong Kong. She has also served on numerous state and Federal government boards.

Ms Mary P Mitchell, LLB Adel, GradDipLegPrac SAIT
(to 24 April 2009).
General Manager, Commercial, of Defence SA, Ms Mitchell has practised as a lawyer, initially in general practice and later in commercial and corporate areas.

Mr Thomas R Phillips, AM, MBA UNE, FAICD
Mr Phillips retired as CEO of Mitsubishi Motors Australia Ltd in 2005 following a distinguished career of 40 years in the Australian automotive Industry. He holds directorships in a number of companies.
Mr Michael Shanahan, AM
Mr Shanahan has extensive experience in agribusiness and has held senior board and committee positions in public and private organisations involved in primary industry.

Mr Austin R Taylor, BEd Adel, FCA, FAICD, MAICM
Mr Taylor is a Chartered Accountant in public practice who applies his experience and skills to complement organisational culture, strategy and change in a broad range of organisations.

Deputy Chancellor Mr Ian G Yates, AM, BA Flin, MAICD
Chief Executive of Council on the Ageing (SA), Mr Yates also serves on numerous boards and government advisory bodies.

MEMBER CO-OPTED AND APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

Mr Richard Ryan AO
(from 13 August 2009).
Mr Ryan is a professional company director who is currently a member of a number of public and government boards. He was Chancellor of Charles Darwin University from November 2003 to December 2009, and remains a member of Council.

MEMBERS ELECTED BY ACADEMIC STAFF

Professor Gary Davis, LLB York (Can), LLM Michigan (to 10 February 2009).

Dr Kathryn Schuller, BSc (Hons) ANU, PhD ANU (from 20 April 2009).

Associate Professor Heather Smigiel, BEd UniSA, MEd (HumResMgmt) UniSA, PhD UTas

MEMBERS ELECTED BY GENERAL STAFF

Dr Leonie Hardcastle, BA Flin, PhD Flin

Mr Ben Jacobs, BHlthSc(Hons) Adel, MPubMgmt Flin (from 4 August 2009).

Ms Anthea Williams, BHlthSc Flin (to 19 June 2009).

MEMBERS ELECTED BY STUDENTS

Ms Emily Crawford

Ms C Amanda Muller, BA Flin, GradCertTESOL Flin (to 17 November 2009)

Mr Samuel D Taylor, BScMarBiol (Hons) Flin

Council Committees

The Council has established five standing committees to assist it in discharging its various duties. Four of these Committees are chaired by external members of Council. The Standing Committees of Council, their Chairs and external members, are set out below.

The University is most appreciative of the generous contributions made by those members of the wider community who give freely of their time and expertise to assist the University in its planning and decision-making.

COUNCIL
Chair, Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO Chancellor ex officio

AWARDS COMMITTEE
Chair
Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO Chancellor
Ms Leonie Clyne
Mr Ian Yates, AM

AUDIT COMMITTEE
Chair
Mr Austin Taylor
Mr Allen Bolaffi
Mr Alan Herald
Ms Elizabeth Moran
Mr Ian Yates, AM

ACADEMIC SENATE
Chair
Professor Marika Tiggesmann
External Member
Dr Helen Paige

RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Chair
Mr Ian Yates, AM
Mr John Hood
Mr Michael Shanahan, AM
Mr Stephen Hains
Mrs Peggy Lau Flux
The Hon Dr Diana Laidlaw, AM (from 7/11/09)

SENIOR STAFF REMUNERATION COMMITTEE
Chair
Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO Chancellor
Ms Leonie Clyne
Mr Ian Yates, AM
Officers of the University

The Chancellor
Sir Eric J Neal, AC, CVO, HonDEng Syd, HonDUniv SAust, DUniv Flin, CEng(UK), CPEng, FIE Aust, FIGEM(UK), FAICD, FAIM, FSTE, FAIB

Deputy Chancellors
Ms Leonie J Clyne, BA (Psych) Flin, MAICD
Mr Ian G Yates, AM, BA Flin, MAICD

Vice-Chancellor
Professor Michael Barber, BSc NSW, PhD Cornell, FAA ComplE Aust, MAICD, FTSE

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Professor Andrew W Parkin, BA, MA Adel, MA, PhD, Harvard

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)
Professor Dean K Forbes, BA Flin, MA PNG, PhD Monash, FASSA

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor Christopher D Marlin, BSc Adel, PhD Adel, FACS, FAICD, ComplEAust, SMIEEE (to 10 April 2009)
Professor Andrew Beer BA Adel, PhD ANU (14 April – 27 November 2009)
Professor David A Day DipT, BSc, PhD Adel, MAICD (from 1 December 2009)

Executive Director of Administration
Ms Barbara Fergusson, BA Adel, DipEd Adel, GradDipTESL SACAE, MBA Adel

Registrar
Ms Bronwyn A Simondson, BA WAust, DipLib WAIT
### Key Statistics

#### Student and Staff Numbers - Key Five Year Figures

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<td><strong>Student Numbers</strong></td>
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<td>Onshore</td>
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<td>Offshore</td>
<td>1185</td>
<td>1351</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>843</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14997</td>
<td>15923</td>
<td>16247</td>
<td>16619</td>
<td>17632</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Female Students</td>
<td>9503</td>
<td>10081</td>
<td>10443</td>
<td>10757</td>
<td>11493</td>
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<td>Male Students</td>
<td>5494</td>
<td>5842</td>
<td>5804</td>
<td>5862</td>
<td>6139</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14997</td>
<td>15923</td>
<td>16247</td>
<td>16619</td>
<td>17632</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Staff (FTE)</strong></td>
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<td>Academic</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>704</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Academic</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>1021</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1493</td>
<td>1561</td>
<td>1625</td>
<td>1662</td>
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*FTE: Full Time Equivalence. Student numbers and load are whole year figures. Staff FTEs derived from Official Staff Collection Files.*

#### Financial - Key Five Year Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 $'000's</th>
<th>2006 $'000's</th>
<th>2007 $'000's</th>
<th>2008 $'000's</th>
<th>2009 $'000's</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>University - Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Government Assistance</td>
<td>112,606</td>
<td>122,578</td>
<td>135,634</td>
<td>168,174</td>
<td>167,192</td>
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<tr>
<td>HECS HELP/FEE HELP</td>
<td>38,217</td>
<td>43,873</td>
<td>48,501</td>
<td>52,015</td>
<td>55,078</td>
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<td>State/Territory and SA Local Governments</td>
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<td>9,210</td>
<td>9,106</td>
<td>15,078</td>
<td>16,174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees and Charges</td>
<td>31,237</td>
<td>35,709</td>
<td>39,888</td>
<td>41,345</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>8,084</td>
<td>14,339</td>
<td>8,131</td>
<td>8,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>20,620</td>
<td>22,706</td>
<td>23,325</td>
<td>29,281</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>217,853</td>
<td>240,074</td>
<td>270,174</td>
<td>308,068</td>
<td>322,142</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
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<td>5,308</td>
<td>4,940</td>
<td>5,284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept of Innovation, Industry, Science &amp; Research</td>
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<td>20,151</td>
<td>19,885</td>
<td>19,705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept of Education, Employment &amp; Workplace Relations</td>
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<td>1,939</td>
<td>1,894</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>2,451</td>
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<td>NH&amp;MRC</td>
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<td>8,041</td>
<td>8,502</td>
<td>9,021</td>
<td>10,659</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Commonwealth Research</td>
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<td>7,485</td>
<td>11,740</td>
<td>13,335</td>
<td>12,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA Government</td>
<td>2,648</td>
<td>6,915</td>
<td>6,769</td>
<td>6,459</td>
<td>7,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry and Other</td>
<td>5,063</td>
<td>9,956</td>
<td>11,490</td>
<td>10,811</td>
<td>11,412</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>49,817</td>
<td>59,795</td>
<td>65,220</td>
<td>65,685</td>
<td>71,451</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>215,165</td>
<td>237,297</td>
<td>370,176</td>
<td>409,691</td>
<td>441,516</td>
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</table>
Vice-Chancellor’s Review

The global financial crisis and the Federal Government’s initial response to the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education served as a backdrop to the operations of every Australian university in 2009.

At Flinders University, the need to position the University to respond to a more competitive higher education environment and an increasingly globalised world, provided the context for an ongoing process of review and renewal within the University and the development of a new strategic plan.

In March 2009, I received the Report of an examination of the social sciences at Flinders, an area which has long been a defining feature of Flinders University’s profile. The Report was the result of a comprehensive, three-month investigation commissioned in recognition of the critical importance of the social sciences to the resolution of many of the challenges facing the world today. The Report made a number of recommendations designed to enhance the University’s teaching and research outcomes in the social sciences and maximise their contribution to public debate, policy development and the advancement of knowledge.

In July we initiated a major review of the course and curriculum structure for the University. The project involves a redesign of all courses and programs to ensure a consistency of structure to enable better internal and external collaboration. As part of the project, Faculties were asked to consider and implement where appropriate a number of generic curriculum developments, including opportunities for work-integrated learning and the inclusion of international and indigenous perspectives.

In February we commissioned two major new buildings on campus: the Health Sciences building and the Education building. A number of other building projects were completed on the Bedford Park campus, and at our sites in Alice Springs, Darwin, Victor Harbor and Port Lincoln. Government funding of $28 million for the Flinders Northern Territory Clinical School announced in the May Federal Budget will allow students to undertake their entire medical training in the Territory for the first time. The funding will finance new buildings and facilities at Charles Darwin University and the Royal Darwin Hospital to support the four year Flinders University graduate entry medical course.

State-of-the-art facilities, including a video-conferencing suite and a lecture theatre with clinical simulation capabilities, are key elements of a new $1.7 million home base for the University’s Rural Clinical School program in the Hills, Mallee and Fleurieu region. (The University operates Rural Clinical Schools in a number of other sites in South Australia and the Northern Territory). The building, officially opened in July, is located within the grounds of the South Coast District Hospital at Victor Harbor and also incorporates a meeting and tutorial room and administrative offices.

In addition, Flinders has established a long-term presence in the Adelaide CBD, taking a lease on two floors of the former Reserve Bank building on Victoria Square. The building will act as a highly visible city location and base for the University, and components of a range of postgraduate courses will be taught there from the start of 2010 (photo back inside cover).

The University’s capacity to train experts and provide the research required to tackle major environmental issues has been enhanced with the creation of a new School of the Environment. This hub of environmental expertise will be established in January next year, and will later be housed in a state-of-the-art “green” building on campus. By concentrating the University’s diverse research activities and courses related to the environment and sustainable development we aim to establish a flagship environmental school of national standing.

The Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Program (SKTP), funded with a $3.25 million grant from the Federal Government, will see Flinders staff and students increase their contact with community organisations, businesses and government agencies to deliver enhanced skills, knowledge and innovation for the southern region of Adelaide.

We spent much of the year developing a new strategic plan. The Plan, Inspiring Flinders Future, resulted from a series of discussions held within the University over a period of two years and is our blueprint for the next five years.

The Plan is ambitious and challenging in scope and reflects the University’s ongoing commitment to quality both in teaching and research, to enhancing educational opportunities and to supporting students during their time at University. The Plan also makes a commitment to strengthening our engagement with communities locally, nationally and internationally.
Inspiring Flinders Future
The Key Strategies

The Strategic Plan 2010-2014 has nine key strategies:

1 BUILDING SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES
   By being outwardly engaged, with strong links to our stakeholders and serving the communities in which we operate

2 ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
   Through innovative and flexible entry pathways, a relevant and dynamic course profile, and improving the retention and progression of students

3 ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
   By showing respect for their views and care for their welfare, by providing effective support services, and by maintaining a lively campus culture

4 VALUING QUALITY IN TEACHING
   As an unwavering commitment and a defining characteristic of Flinders

5 FOCUSING RESEARCH
   On those who are research active or have the potential to be, and on high quality, targeted and collaborative research and research training that makes a difference

6 STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONALISATION
   By expanding opportunities and benefits for students, staff, and our communities to engage in the global society

7 VALUING OUR PEOPLE
   By supporting and encouraging all staff to achieve the highest level of performance, deliver vision and adapt to the changes required

8 COMMITTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE
   By becoming internationally recognised for innovative research and teaching and by reducing the environmental impact of our activities

9 IMPROVING OUR FINANCIAL CAPACITY
   By ensuring that our available resources are increased and used in the most effective and efficient ways

To honour Professor Peter Karmel, the University’s first Vice-Chancellor who died in December 2008, the Karmel Endowment Fund has been established as a channel for the support the University receives from friends, alumni and corporate partners.

We have set ourselves some challenges and are asking the hard questions. Such times require strong leadership and I am delighted to announce that we made some outstanding executive appointments in 2009. Professor Michael Kidd took up his appointment as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences in January. Professor David Day commenced as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) in December, and Professor Phyllis Tharenou was appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and will take up her appointment in February 2010. The University anticipates making a number of other significant appointments in 2010.

The University did have the unfortunate experience in the past year of discovering that an employee had misappropriated $24 million. At the date of this report, $17 million has been recovered. Recovery actions continue and, while it will take some time, I am confident that the vast majority of the funds will be recovered. Any eventual loss that may occur will have no impact on the delivery of the University’s programs or the achievement of the goals set out in the Strategic Plan. The University has acted on expert external advice and strengthened its financial controls. The employment of the individual concerned has been terminated and he is on remand awaiting trial.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the leadership and wise counsel provided to the University over the past eight years by Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO, who will retire as Chancellor of the University at the end of February 2010. Sir Eric’s contribution to the University has been immense. He has been tireless in his advocacy for the University, generous with his time and constant in his support. We wish him all the best for his retirement.

Mr Stephen Gerlach, AM, will commence as Chancellor of the University in March 2010. I am delighted that Mr Gerlach has chosen to accept this appointment and look forward to working with him to further strengthen the University in the future.

Professor Michael Barber FAA FTSE
Vice-Chancellor
Several major research successes were realised at Flinders in 2009. In January, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong announced that under the Directorship of hydrogeologist Professor Craig Simmons, a new $55 million National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT) would be based at Flinders University. The NCGRT will make a major contribution towards understanding Australia’s groundwater systems and underpin the decision-making required to ensure their sustainability. With major funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Water Commission, the Centre is a collaboration between 12 universities and eight industry and government organisations. The NCGRT will tap the knowledge and experience of the country’s leading water experts in research institutions, water industry bodies and government agencies and train the next generation of groundwater specialists.

Dr Kathryn Burdon’s research project to investigate the underlying genetic risk factors of diabetes-related eye disease was one of 12 Flinders projects to receive a total of $5.85 million from National Health and Medical Research Council grants in 2009. Grants by the Australian Research Council were also announced, and explorations of eyewitness accuracy and the social networks of sleepy lizards were among the five Flinders projects to receive funding. ARC funding, including a Linkage grant and a grant under the Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development scheme, totalled $2.27 million.

The Algal Fuels Consortium of which Flinders is a member, together with South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the CSIRO Energy Transformed Flagship, Sancon Recycling Pty Ltd and Flinders Partners received a research grant of $2.724 million from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. The grant will support the development of a pilot-scale second generation biorefinery for sustainable production of microalgal biofuels and value added products to be constructed on Torrens Island. It will be one of the largest research biorefineries in Australia. Sancon Recycling Australia has committed to at least matching the funding for the pilot project. Photo shows Hao Jiang, Phd student in Bioprocessing lab.

High-tech research in the performing arts will benefit from a $500,000 grant to Flinders drama academics Professor Julie Holledge and Dr Jonathan Bollen. The National E-Research Architecture Taskforce grant will fund the development of digital tools to advance data collection, analysis and research, furthering the AusStage project, a comprehensive database of the performing arts supported by the Australian Research Council.

Response to natural disasters is rapidly emerging as a research and teaching specialisation within the School of Nursing and Midwifery, with the accreditation of the School’s Disaster Nursing Centre by the International Council of Nurses and the establishment of the Flinders University Research Centre for Disaster Resilience and Health under Professor Paul Arbon.

In August, palaeontologists from the NT Museum and Flinders University discovered the remains of a giant hippo-like animal near Alice Springs. The find was the latest in a 25-year project by scientists from the two institutions at a site near Alcoota, 180km northeast of Alice Springs. Flinders paleontologist Dr Gavin Prideaux also led an international team that published research suggesting human hunting, not climate change, was responsible for the extinction of Australia’s prehistoric giant kangaroo.

A major study by the Flinders Centre for Science Education in the 21st Century (Science21) found that many secondary school science teachers in South Australia are not qualified to teach the subjects for which they are responsible. The report recommended that governments and the higher education sector should join forces to improve qualifications among teachers.

Research aimed at improving the well-being of Indigenous people will be a major aspect of joint research between the University’s Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity and the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health. Supported by Commonwealth and State government funding the Southgate Institute, headed by Federation Fellow Professor Fran Baum, was launched in May to build on the University’s research and policy strengths in the area of the social and economic determinants of health.
A strong demand for admission to Flinders courses in 2009 indicated that our course profile and curriculum innovations continue to be well matched to community and employer needs. There was an especially strong upsurge in interest from TAFE/VET graduates, leading to a 39% increase in admissions through this pathway.

Flinders has responded to long-standing demand from school leavers by providing an accelerated pathway for Year 12 students into the University’s medical course from 2010. Students in this pathway will be offered a six-year combined Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, and there will be 25 places available annually. The Year 12 pathway will complement the established and highly successful graduate-entry pathway.

A new course in optometry commencing in 2010 has a particular focus on regional and rural practice, and aims to boost eye health in Indigenous communities. The course will require five years of study, and will be introduced as a specialisation in Vision Science within a three-year Bachelor of Medical Science, to be followed by a two-year Master of Optometry. The Flinders course will fill a crucial gap in optometry training, as the only qualifications currently offered are confined to the eastern States. Professor Konrad Pesudovs was appointed as the Foundation Chair of Optometry and Vision Science.

The Science Innovation Learning Centre building, designed to support teaching and community outreach and to provide dedicated study and recreational facilities for first-year science students, has been completed. As well as providing teaching and demonstration space, it will house audio-visual, photocopying and printing equipment for student use, a café and an administration area.

Teams of students from International Studies, Law, Arts, Education and Behavioural Science had a chance to act in the role of government advisers in a three-hour ‘Hypothetical’, funded by a Flinders Teaching and Learning and Innovation Grant. Charged with providing policy ‘advice’ to government in the face of a series of imaginary international crises, the 80 students had the benefit of guidance from former Federal Defence Minister and Opposition Leader, Kim Beazley.

Afghan student Sonia Ziaee (photo) came to study at Flinders in 2009 with funding from the Peace Scholarship Plan. Despite twice being uprooted from her homeland, Ms Ziaee has worked as a computer trainer in Kabul and, while studying at Flinders, continued her current job as a cost controller for a security and logistics firm in the Afghan capital via phone and internet. A student of International Business and Accounting topics at Flinders, she hopes to become one of Afghanistan’s first businesswomen.

Pat Witcombe, a postgraduate student and senior tutor at University Hall, travelled to Cambodia in late 2009 as a volunteer. A talented singer and guitarist, he helped to establish a musical program for children at the New Hope Village, an orphanage that houses 180 children with HIV/AIDS. He also worked on setting up a computer database to assist in monitoring the children’s health and managing retroviral HIV drugs.

Eight Flinders staff were awarded Citations for Contributions to Outstanding Student Learning in the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) awards announced in July. Each carrying a $10,000 prize, the annual awards recognise and reward the diverse contribution that individuals and teams make to the quality of student learning over a sustained period. In November, at the ALTC’s major awards ceremony, nanotechnologist Professor Joe Shapter was presented with a 2009 Award for Teaching Excellence worth $25,000.
The University won the first national competition to host the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science from 2011. Five distinguished scholars from the United States will be based at Flinders over the five years of the Fulbright program. The Chair will add a new dimension to the University's strong record of teaching and research in American Studies, which includes the annual Washington internship program.

Flinders participated for the second consecutive year in the International Student Barometer (ISB). The ISB is the largest annual study of international students in the world, with feedback from 82,917 international students across 115 universities worldwide, including 12 Australian universities. For overall satisfaction Flinders was ranked second of the Australian Universities. The welcome international students receive at Flinders was ranked highest worldwide, with work experience opportunities and accommodation quality ranking first among participating Australian universities.

Flinders international student Zhengnan Shan was selected from 1300 applicants nationwide to attend a two day Roundtable at Parliament House in September (photo). The Roundtable assessed the challenges facing international students and their experience in Australia. Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, thanked the 31 international students who represented universities from across Australia for their hard work and thoughtful responses on the issues facing international students which will be considered by various levels of government.

A joint Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) between Flinders University and HELP University College in Malaysia was approved in May to be offered offshore in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 2010. On successful completion, students will be conferred a single degree jointly awarded by Flinders University and HELP University College.

Flinders licensed its paramedic curriculum to King Saud bin Abdul Aziz University of Health Sciences in Saudi Arabia. Flinders will be working with King Saud bin Abdul Aziz University of Health Sciences to broaden the collaboration in future years.

Flinders academics and their counterparts from Nankai University addressed the issues stemming from the Global Financial Crisis at a conference in China co-hosted by the two institutions in October. The conference coincided with the graduation ceremony for the Master of Arts (International Relations in Economy and Trade) taught by Flinders with Nankai University at a number of cities in China. We were delighted by the Chinese Ministry of Education's determination that Flinders Nankai programs were ranked in the top ten foreign programs in China.

In September, a party of Humanities and Social Sciences academics from Flinders travelled to Beijing to participate in a joint international symposium with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Organised by Professor Francis Regan of Legal Studies and led by Professor Andrew Beer, it was the first conference between CASS and Australian social scientists for two decades.

Flinders held the 8th International Conference on Greek Research in July. Attracting local and international scholars from numerous disciplines, the biennial conference is the largest of its kind outside Greece. While focusing on issues related to Cyprus, the bilingual program also featured papers on a wide range of themes related to ancient and modern Greek culture, a professional development seminar for teachers of Modern Greek, exhibitions and book launches.

A six-strong Flinders delegation, led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Dean Forbes and including three Spanish speakers, visited universities and met with education officials in Chile. The delegation explored the possibility of future synergies in areas such as marine science, archaeology and nanotechnology, and the visit also helped to raise the University's profile at a time when the Chilean government is in the process of expanding its overseas scholarships program.
People

Professor Michael Kidd, an expert in blood-borne infectious diseases and public health and former senior administrator at Sydney University, took up his appointment as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences in January.

In December eminent plant scientist Professor David Day commenced as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Flinders. Previously Dean of the Faculty of Science and Executive Dean of the Faculties of Science, Agriculture and Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, he is recognised for leading high-level research groups.

More recently the University has appointed a senior Australian Research Council executive, Professor Phyllis Tharenou, to lead its revamped Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences. She will take up the position of Executive Dean in February 2010.

School of Education academic Dr John Halsey was appointed the foundation Sidney Myer Chair for Rural Education and Communities from an international field. Professor Halsey will lead a program of research and teaching aimed at improving access to high quality education and training for people living in rural and remote Australia. The position has been established with a $1 million grant from the Sidney Myer Fund as part of the Myer Family Philanthropy’s 2009 Commemorative Grants Program.

Dr Adrian Linacre was appointed as the inaugural Justice Chair in Forensic DNA Technology, with financial support from the South Australian Department of Justice through Forensic Science South Australia. Dr Linacre will take up his appointment in February 2010, following on from his position at the Centre for Forensic Science at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, where he specialises in DNA profiling for human identification and the investigation of wildlife crime.

Ground-breaking research on how human nerve cells communicate earned Flinders neuroscientist Dr Damien Keating a prestigious Future Fellowship from the Australian Research Council (photo). The inaugural Future Fellowships, announced in September, were awarded to 200 outstanding national and international mid-career researchers, encouraging them to work in Australia by providing a salary of up to $135,000 for four years, with their institutions receiving up to $50,000 a year for associated infrastructure and other costs.

Josh Makepeace, who achieved High Distinctions in all subjects of his science degree, has become Flinders University’s fourth Rhodes Scholar. He is currently completing a Bachelor of Science (Honours) at Flinders, and will take up his scholarship at Oxford University in September 2010.

Alisa Selimovic, who completed her degree in 2008 with a University Medal and first class honours in Biomedical Engineering, was awarded a Menzies Scholarship to undertake her doctorate at Oxford University, where she will join a group that models and simulates cardio-vascular vessels. The Menzies Foundation funds only one scholarship in engineering each year Australia-wide.

A Flinders physics PhD in 2008, Dr Kate Nixon, has won a prestigious 2009 Newton International Fellowship that will enable her to study the dynamics of electron collisions at the University of Manchester for two years. The Fellowships provide promising post-doctoral researchers from around the world with funding to work with UK research groups and to establish long-term international collaborations. Only 50 are awarded each year.

Computer engineering student Daix Tregenza and his ‘robot teaming’ project extended the University’s already extraordinary run of success by winning the SA and NT Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Rex Johns Presentation Prize for the eleventh time in 14 years. Biomedical engineering honours student Tony Carlisle won the national 2009 AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Award with his presentation on a prototype nasogastric tube insertion simulator.

Professor Jane James was named 2009 South Australian of the Year in the Tourism Category. This award followed Professor James being honoured for “Outstanding Contribution by an Individual” in the 2009 South Australian Tourism Awards. The award cited Professor James as having been “instrumental in the establishment and ongoing coordination of its successful tourism programs since 1997”.